



# Parent Partnerships

A Newsletter for Parents with Children who have Moderate to Severe Disabilities  
Educational Equity For All

August 2019

## California Department of Education News



### Special Education Transportation Guidelines

Guidelines for use by Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams when

determining required transportation services.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/Tr/trnsptrgdlns.asp>

Welcome to another year. I am focusing this “back to school” issue on all those tips, trick and ideas to prepare your child and the family to go back to school. I hope you find these ideas useful.

## 10 Tips To Prepare For Kindergarten When Your Child Has Special Needs

- Tip #1 Ask For Help Early
- Tip #2 Identify Triggers & Concerns
- Tip #3 Compile Relevant Reports And Articles
- Tip #4 Build A Support Kit For Your Child
- Tip #5 Toileting
- Tip #6 Clothing
- Tip #7 Lunch Time
- Tip #8 Mastering Circle Time
- Tip #9 Inside Out, Get Ready For The Emotions
- Tip #10 Build Your Village

<https://t.ly/e6Yb>



Parent to Parent USA provides emotional & informational support for families of children who have special needs.

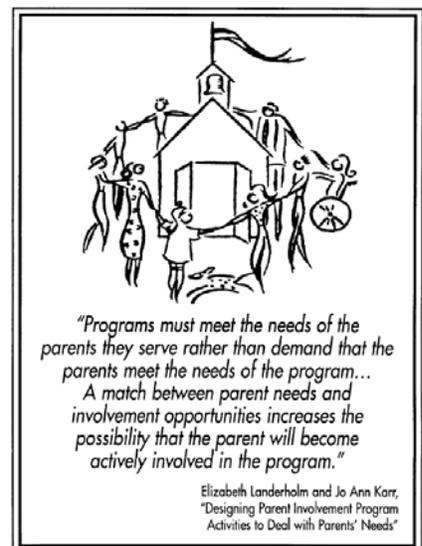
<http://www.p2pusa.org/>

## Back-to-School Tips for Children with Special Needs

### Beyond the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Don't count on the IEP to do all the heavy lifting; it provides little information on what really makes your child tick. Pull together a one-to-three-page overview of what teachers and service providers should know about your family structure, your child's likes and dislikes, what sets her off and what calms her down. Describe what's being done at home to work through anxieties and behaviors. List food allergies and other necessary medical information, as well as emergency contacts. For disabilities that aren't widely recognized, include basic facts and a few helpful resources. Preparation of this summary has the additional benefit of reminding parents about areas that need continued attention at home.

<https://t.ly/LzRW>



## Feature Idea of Month

### **FREE SOCIAL STORIES ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL**

A collection of free social stories about going to school. These free printable social stories are perfect for back to school season!

You are going to love this list of free social stories about going to school! They will help your child get excited to return to school and reinforce school expectations and rules. <https://t.ly/jmyD>

### **What strategies help special education students in the general education classroom?**

Federal law says that students with learning disabilities should be educated alongside their non-disabled peers "to the maximum extent possible." According to a 2014 report by the [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#), [66 percent of students with learning disabilities](#) spend 80 percent or more of their school day in general education classrooms. That's a big increase from 47 percent a decade ago.

Schools use many strategies to help students receiving special education services succeed in general education settings. These strategies include:

**Assistive technology** such as providing a laptop to help a student with a writing disability take notes in class

**Accommodations** such as seating the student near the teacher (and far from distractions) or allowing him to give oral reports instead of writing essays

**Modifications** such as reducing the amount of homework a student is assigned

**Paraprofessionals** who serve as teachers' aides helping students with various tasks such as taking notes and highlighting important information

<https://t.ly/Olve>



**National Association of Parents with Children in Special Education**

A place where parents of children in special education can find everything they need to know to be their child's best advocate



[National Association of Parents with Children in Special Education \(NAPCSE\)](#): Parents of Special Education students can learn how to be their child's best advocate. <http://www.napcse.org/>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://t.ly/ZdxN>

<https://t.ly/8vZB>

<https://t.ly/x8KK>



1. **Communicate early.** Set up a meeting or phone call with your child's teacher to share as many details about your child as you can.
2. **Visit the classroom with your child.** Arrange to bring your child to the school for a visit before the very first day.
3. **Create a routine before school starts.** Catching a bus may not be part of the summer time routine, but keeping a familiar routine each day can help ease anxiety and give your child an easier start to the day.
4. **Stay connected.** It seems sending little notes in a lunch box are a very common and fun way for parents to connect with their kids during the day.
5. **Create a social story.** Reading stories about other kids going to school can help ease worries, but reading social stories written with "I statements" empowers your child to see themselves as having success at school.
6. **Learn to be a good advocate.** Parents can sometimes feel intimidated by the authority of a school district.

<https://t.ly/gW9m>

### **Back-to-School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs**

By: [Reading Rockets](#)

[Organize all that paperwork](#)

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child's special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs in sequential order can also help you stay organized.

[Start a communication log](#)

[Keeping track](#) of all phone calls, e-mails, notes home, meetings, and conferences is important. Create a "communication log" for yourself in a notebook that is easily accessible. Be sure to note the dates, times, and nature of the communications you have.

<https://t.ly/kYnD>