



Key Questions to Ask During the IEP Process

During the IEP process, when determining your child's needs for an intervener, the following key questions are important to consider:

Access to **Information** Needed for Learning

- How does my child's vision loss affect his/her ability to access visual information?
- How does my child's hearing loss affect his/her ability to access auditory information?
- How is my child going to have consistent access to the visual and auditory information and instruction needed for learning and interaction in the educational environment?
- How is my child going to have access throughout the day to incidental information vital to learning and interaction?
- How is conceptual learning going to be provided consistently to my child?
- How is my child going to be connected to the educational environment and engaged in learning on a consistent basis?

Access to **Communication** Needed for Learning and Interaction

- Who will be able to communicate with my child in his/her mode of communication?
- How will information be communicated to my child?
- How will my child be able to get someone's attention, request something, and make his/her needs known?
- How will others understand what my child is communicating?
- How will my child be able to communicate with peers?
- What instructional strategies will facilitate my child's development and use of both receptive and expressive communication?

- How is my child going to be exposed to a language level that is beyond where he/she is functioning so as to facilitate his/her language development?
- What communication options/methods will be available for my child?

Access to **Social and Emotional Well-Being**

- How will my child know what is happening around him/her and who is present?
- How will my child know when he/she is safe and can feel safe?
- How will my child be motivated to try new things and to learn?
- How will my child's behavior be seen as communication?
- How is my child going to have trusting relationships with others?
- How is my child going to be able to make choices, solve problems, and develop self-determination?
- What needs to be done to make the educational environment emotionally manageable for my child?
- How will social and emotional well-being be ensured for my child?

Overall

- **How will the Least Restrictive Environment be provided to my child?**
- **How will a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) be ensured for my child?**

Excerpts from: *A Family's Guide to Interveners For Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss* by Linda Alsop, Clara Berg, Vivecca Hartman, Melanie Knapp, Kimberly Lauger, Cheryl Levasseur, Mike Prouty, & Sally Prouty.

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