FOSTERING A COLLABORATIVE IEP RELATIONSHIP:
A PARENTS' SIDE PERSPECTIVE
Team Johnny!!
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- Be Transparent – establish ongoing communication with parent
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- Parent Training on Special Education concepts, terms and laws
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- Ensure that everyone on the team is equally informed
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• Be open to learning new information from the parents
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- Permit classroom observations
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- Do not rush through IEP meetings – ensure parental understanding
Safe Place
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- No retaliation for strong parent advocacy
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- Be empathetic to the lives of special needs parents
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- Do not discourage teachers advocating for their students
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- Teacher training for de-escalating emotional parents
- No “waiting in the lobby” for the “IEP team to arrive”
- Do not discourage teachers advocating for their students
- Anonymous rating of administrators by teachers and parents
Come Prepared to Meetings
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- More teacher training on writing IEPs, goal/objective drafting, and data collection and reporting
Johnny will improve his classroom performance to a level that will allow him to complete assignments with accuracy and in an allotted time.
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- Mentor new teachers by experienced teachers
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- Mentor new teachers by experienced teachers
- Teachers should know “where a student is” in IEP deficit areas
- Proactively send evaluations and draft IEPs home one week ahead of the meeting
Be Willing to Admit Mistakes and Deficiencies

You Will Make Mistakes.... ... Learn From Them
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• Educate teachers on students disabilities PRIOR to the school year starting
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- Recognize dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia
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- Accept responsibility for some of a student’s lack of progress
- Accept and incorporate information from outside resources brought by the parents
- Recognize dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia
- Recognize twice exceptional student for their gifts as well as deficits
Be Proactive

Proactive

Reactive
Be Proactive
Be Proactive

• Follow the IEP
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- Conduct integrity checks
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- Take action if you see a child struggling
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• Treat children in special education small group classes as all other students in the school
Be Truthful

You can trust an honest person
Be Truthful
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  • Students who are passing can still qualify for IEPs
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  - Students who are passing can still qualify for IEPs
  - Confidentiality and privacy rights of other students do NOT come into play during observations
  - Students do NOT have to choose between honors/AP classes and accommodations