

# Ten Tips for Caregivers

Teaching students in the inclusive classroom requires teamwork, communication and dedication.

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Share your expectations.



Inform others that you expect your child to participate daily in the classroom. Share your child's strengths, and explain how your child is best able to participate.

Keep the IEP meaningful!



Remember the IEP is a working document! Begin with a few important manageable goals. Focus on the areas that are most meaningful for your child. Slowly add more complex goals over time. Write goals that promote active learning in the classroom.

Develop a rapport with school staff.



Talk with teachers in person! Encourage the teacher to voice concerns, hopes and fears. Tips and tricks that work at home, will work at school or in the community.

Share your story.



Documentation can be dull. Teachers and other professional learn about your child and the experience of a disability through your stories.



**Go out and Vote!**

Your voice matters. Keep up with public policies. Vote for representatives who support the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities.

Join a parent organization.



Seek out friends and peers. Gain emotional support and share ideas and insights with other families.



**Be Flexible.**

Remember that with very little funding, your school must educate all their students. Ask others how you can best help and support the school team.

Hold your Criticism.



Teaching a diverse classroom is challenging but not impossible. Save negative feedback for important issues and concerns. Encourage your school to continue its efforts towards inclusion. Every small step counts.

Give positive feedback.



Your feedback reinforces and rewards positive behavior. Thank a teacher or therapist for something positive they contributed to your child. The school team benefits from your comments and learn from what they are doing well.

**Attend meetings & conferences.**



Reinforce team efforts to keep you well informed. Come to the IEP. Keep in touch with the classroom by attending Parent-Teacher conferences. You are the expert on your child, share your knowledge with others.