A PARENT’S GUIDE TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

“Education is the key to the universe”

Presented by:
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Dedication

This handbook is dedicated to parents who must meet the challenge of active participation in their child’s education.

It is our goal that this handbook will be an effective tool in the parents’ partnership with the school as they jointly develop and implement an educational program for their child.
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WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Special Education is an individualized education program (IEP) designed to help children reach their highest potential. It is provided for children, birth through age 21, who qualify according to laws and regulations outlined by state and federal governments.

Children receive special education instruction and services according to their specific needs. Children are placed in special education programs only after resources of the regular education program have been considered and utilized when appropriate. The following is a brief description of the special education programs available in the Sacramento County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).

**Severely Disabled:** These programs are for children who have severe disabilities in learning and/or behavior. The following categories are:
- Intellectually Disabled
- Multiple Disabilities
- Autism
- Emotionally Disturbed
- Deaf/Blind

**Physically Disabled:** Children placed in this program have a physical condition that interferes with learning and include:
- Orthopedically Impaired
- Other Health Impaired
- Visually Impaired
- Traumatic Brain Injured

**Communicatively Disabled:** Children in these programs have a language disability which interferes with academic achievement. Categories are:
- Speech/Language Impaired
- Deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Severe Disorder of Language
Learning Disabled: This program is for children with significant disabilities in learning and include:
Specific Learning Disability
Mild/Moderate Disability

Low Incidence funds are granted to the SELPA based on the number of students in the following categories: Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, and Severe Orthopedically Impaired. Students in these categories can access these funds for specialized equipment and materials.

TYPES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Special Education students may be served in a variety of settings, depending upon needs as determined by the IEP team. Settings and services may include:

Special Day Classes: This is a service provided for students with more intensive needs. Students in special day classes spend the majority of their school day within that setting. The pupils are grouped according to similar instructional needs. Each special day class teacher is provided an instructional assistant whose time is spent assisting the special day class students. Students are mainstreamed or integrated into the regular education program as much as possible, based on the individual student’s ability and input from staff members involved in the student’s education.

Designated Instruction Services (DIS) / Related Services: Supportive services deemed necessary by the IEP team to help a student benefit from the regular classroom situation. DIS services may be provided by the regular classroom teacher, the special day class teacher, the resource specialist, or a variety of other qualified specialists. Specialized help is offered in individualized programs for students needing a modified program or skill support in order to better benefit from the regular
classroom instruction. DIS services include, but are not limited to:

- Language and speech development and remediation
- Audiological services
- Orientation and mobility instruction
- Instruction in the home or hospital
- Adapted Physical Education
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Vision services
- Specialized driver training instruction
- Counseling and guidance
- Psychological services other than assessment and development of the individualized education program
- Parent counseling and training
- Health and nursing services
- Social worker services
- Specially designed vocational education and career development
- Recreation services
- Transportation
- Educationally Related Mental Health

**Resource Specialist Program (RSP):** Students in this program remain in the regular education classroom for most of the day. They attend the resource class for intensive work in specific areas of need. These areas are determined by observation and test results. The teacher provides instruction to each student, either individually or in small groups. Instruction can be delivered within the regular classroom or on a “pull-out” basis.

**Non-Public Schools (NPS):** These services may be provided to a student with exceptional needs that are unable to be met by public education. School districts are required to try all appropriate special education settings within the Public School environment before recommending non-public school placement. Upon placement in a non-public school, parents are notified that they are responsible for notifying their local school district of any change of residence.
State Special Schools: Residential schools for the blind and deaf, as well as the Diagnostic Center, are located in Fremont, CA. All are operated by the State of California and offer complete diagnostic workups. Decisions to place students in these programs are based on the IEP team recommendation when no appropriate placement is available in the local area.

Extended School Year: Extended school year services shall be provided for each individual with exceptional needs who have unique needs and require special education and related services in excess of the regular academic year. This service is offered to help the students maintain their educational progress during summer recess as indicated by the IEP Team. The extended school year is for a minimum of 20 days.

Infant Development Program: Children with exceptional needs from birth to three years of age are eligible to receive these services. Parent involvement is a strong component of the “Infant Program” and services are offered in a variety of ways to accommodate each family’s unique needs. A team of trained specialists provides an individualized program to meet the needs of the infant and family. To make a referral for a child who is younger than three years of age, contact the Sacramento County Office of Education Infant Development Program (916-277-5900) or Alta California Regional Center (916-978-6400).

Vocational/Transitional Program: This program provides job readiness experience in diversified occupations. Classroom experiences and on-the-job training opportunities are carefully planned according to each student’s abilities. All 15-year-olds must have individual transition plans in place.

Praise your child when he puts forth a real effort to do his best.
LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Special Education is an integral part of the total public education system. It provides education in a manner that promotes maximum interaction between children with disabilities and children who are not disabled, and does so in a way that is appropriate to the needs of both.

“No Child is perfectly whole in mind, body, spirit, ability...nor can any child meet all of a parent’s hopes and expectations. Yet there is a wholeness of each and every child, a wholeness that is unique and brings with it a unique set of possibilities and limitations, a unique set of opportunities for fulfillment.  

–Fred Roger”
PROCEDURE FOR REFERRAL
AND POSSIBLE PLACEMENT

Referral: Parents of children attending school are encouraged to talk with school staff when it appears their child is not making progress. The vehicle for discussing these concerns is the Student Study Team (SST).

Student Study Team: The SST is a regular education function. The team includes teachers, administrators, parents, and support staff. The team’s task is to explore all available resources and make recommendations for regular program modifications.

Referral for Assessment: If the regular education modifications suggested through the SST meeting are unsuccessful, the parent is notified and a Referral for Assessment is completed. A parent may directly refer his or her child for an educational assessment.

Permission to Assess: Parents are then informed of their due process rights and the contents of the proposed assessment plan, and they are asked to give written permission to assess their child’s educational skills. This written permission to assess will be secured within 15 days after the referral is received.

Assessment: A multidisciplinary team is designated by the SST chairperson to conduct the assessment. The team includes at least one teacher or specialist knowledgeable in the area of the suspected disability. The assessment team maintains a complete written record of all procedures, suggestions, and conclusions as to the pupil’s future programming. Parent participation in the development of the assessment plan is encouraged to provide an optimum view of the student’s unique needs.
**Parent Notification:** The parent will be notified and an IEP team meeting will be scheduled to discuss assessment and IEP results within 60 days of receipt of the written consent for assessment. Test information and observational data, including input from the parent and all staff members working with the child, will be presented at the IEP meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to develop an educational plan that is individualized to meet each child’s needs. This plan may or may not include a special education program.

**Parent Consent:** No educational placement or plan can occur without the written permission of the parent, parent representative or surrogate parent. If the parent consents in writing to special education and related services but not all of the components of the IEP, those components of the program to which the parent consented must be implemented without delay.

**Parent Hints:** It is important for you to participate and be informed in order to help plan your child’s education.

- Conference with your child’s teacher
- Offer some possible suggestions to motivate and stimulate your child
- Ask someone to accompany you to the IEP meeting, if you wish
- Ask questions to understand terms if you are unfamiliar with them
- Make sure all areas are addressed that you feel are important
- Be sure to keep all documents from your child’s IEP team meeting.
HOTLINES & REFERRAL SERVICES

Alta California Regional Center
2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 978-6400

Autism Society of Northern California
897 E 20th Street
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 897-0900

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater Sacramento Area, INC.
1451 River Park Drive, Suite 241
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 646-9300

California Children’s Services
9616 Micron Avenue, #640
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 875-9900

CA State Department of Rehabilitation
721 Capitol Mall (Central Office)
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-1313

California Department of Education (CDE)
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-0800

C.H.A.D.D. of Greater Sacramento
2795 E. Bidwell Street, Suite 100-221
Folsom, CA 95630
888-759-9758
Developmental Disabilities Area Board III  
2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 263-3085

Easter Seal Society  
3205 Hurley Way  
Sacramento, CA 95864  
(916) 485-6711

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT)  
P.O. Box 255722  
Sacramento, CA 95865-5722  
(916) 303-7405

Volunteer Foster Grandparents Program  
2433 Marconi Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
(916) 875-3569

Maryjane Rees Language, Speech, and Hearing Center  
California State University  
6000 “J” Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 278-6601

Office of Administrative Hearings  
Special Education Unit  
2349 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833-4231  
(916) 263-0550

NorCAL Center on Deafness  
4708 Roseville Road, Suite 111  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
(916) 349-7500
Pride Industries
10030 Foothills Boulevard
Roseville, CA 95747-7102
(916) 788-2100
or:
555 Display Way
Sacramento, CA 95838
(916) 649-9499

Resources for Independent Living
420 “I” Street, Level B, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 446-3074

Sacramento High Tech Center
California State University
6000 “J” Street, Room AIRC 2011
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 278-7915

Sacramento Center for Assistive Technology
6833 8th Street
Rio Linda, CA 95673
(916) 558-5775
ATInfo@dor.ca.gov

Sacramento Society for the Blind
1238 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 452-8271

Sacramento InAlliance, Inc.
6950 21st Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 381-1300
Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders  
6151 “H” Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 731-4357

SETA Head Start  
925 Del Paso Blvd., Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 263-3804

Shriner’s Hospital for Children  
2425 Stockton Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
(916) 453-2000

Social Security Administration  
8351 Folsom Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 381-9410

Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems  
(SEEDS Project)  
Sacramento County Office of Education  
P.O. Box 269003  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 228-2379

United Cerebral Palsy Association  
4350 Auburn Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
(916) 565-7700
Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
- Chinese Proverb
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Boy Scouts of America
251 Commerce Circle
Sacramento, CA 95815-4292
(916) 929-1417

Girl Scouts - Heart of California
6601 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819
(800) 322-4475 or (916) 452-9181

Challenger Little League
145 Security Lane
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 689-1279

City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation/
Access Leisure
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 808-3809

Parks and Recreation
915 I Street, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 808-5200

Project R.I.D.E., Inc.
8840 Southside Avenue
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 685-7433

Ride-To-Walk
700 Sunrise Blvd., Suite O
Roseville, CA 95661
(916) 434-0693
Short Center - Arts for the Handicapped  
2331 Saint Marks Way  
Sacramento, CA 95864  
(916) 973-1951

Special Olympics  
1401 Halyard Drive, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
(916) 375-1930

Stanford Settlement, Inc.  
450 West El Camino Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 927-1303

Surplus Book Room  
4121 Power Inn Road, Suite B  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 454-3459

TOPSoccer  
9643 Foremost Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
www.topsoccereg.com

United Cerebral Palsy Association  
Toy Lending Library  
201 Lathrop Way, Suite I  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 567-4191
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SELPA

Arcohe Union School District
P.O. Box 93
Herald, CA 95638
(209) 748-2313

Center Unified School District
8408 Watt Avenue
Antelope, CA 95843
(916) 338-6330

Elverta Joint School District
7900 Eloise Avenue
Elverta, CA 95626
(916) 991-2244

Galt Joint Union School District (K-8)
1018 “C” Street, Suite 210
Galt, CA 95632
(209) 744-4545

Galt Joint Union High School District
12945 Marengo Road
Galt, CA 95632
(209) 745-3061

Natomas Unified School District
1901 Arena Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 567-5400
River Delta Unified School District
445 Montezuma Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571
District Office (707) 374-1700
Educational Services (916) 777-5945

Robla School District
5248 Rose Street
Sacramento, CA 95838
(916) 991-1728

Sacramento County Office of Education
10474 Mather Boulevard
Mather, CA 95655

PO Box 269003
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 228-2380

Twin Rivers Unified School District
5115 Dudley Boulevard
McClellan, CA 95652
(916) 566-1600

Sacramento County SELPA
10474 Mather Boulevard
Mather, CA 95655

PO Box 269003
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 228-2229
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sacramento County SELPA’s Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of parents of children with disabilities, members of the community, students, and special education professionals who advise the school board and school district administration about special education programs.

The CAC acts in an advisory capacity to the Sacramento County SELPA with regard to:

- Developing and reviewing programs and services outlined in the local plan
- Assisting in parent education
- Promoting community awareness of individuals with exceptional needs
- Supporting activities on behalf of children with exceptional needs
- Facilitating communication between schools, parents, and the community.
- Assisting in parent awareness and the importance of regular school attendance

All meetings are open to anyone interested, and we encourage your participation. Call the Sacramento County SELPA office at (916) 228-2229 for the location and time of the meetings.

Your child will learn most from your example. Help them to think of problems as things that can be solved when people work together.
Parents and guardians have many rights when it comes to gathering information and making decisions regarding their child’s education. A complete list of these rights is available through your special education department and accompanies the assessment plan and IEP forms. Parents also have the right to exercise a legal procedure called “due process” which allows the parent to disagree with any part of the child’s special education program, ensuring implementation of the law.

It is strongly recommended that a parent try to resolve any conflicting issues through informal meetings with the district as this effort promotes better understanding and cooperation.

If there is a disagreement regarding a child’s program, as determined through the IEP process, that cannot be resolved between the parent and school district, the parent and/or the school district may initiate a due process hearing in hopes of resolving the conflict in any of these areas: assessment; program planning; placement; implementation practices; and timeline restrictions. Resolution Sessions are highly recommended at this point.

Each district has established Uniform Complaint Procedures to address complaints. This procedure is used to allege a matter, which if true, would constitute a violation of federal or state laws or regulations governing special education and related services, including allegations of unlawful discrimination. A parent may allege a violation by the district of federal or state law or regulation by filing a written complaint with the district’s superintendent.

When a parent requests a meeting of the IEP team to review the IEP, it shall be held within 30 days from the date of receipt of the written request (not counting days in July and August). Continuous contact with the personnel at your child’s school may avoid the need for additional formal meetings.
Parents may present the IEP team with information concerning their child, or they may send a representative to do so. Parents are encouraged to exercise their right to participate with the IEP team in developing the IEP for their child and in determining eligibility for special education and related services.

Parents may have the right to electronically record the IEP team meeting if other members of the IEP team have been notified at least 24 hours in advance. Other members of the IEP team may also electronically record an IEP team meeting with 24 hours notice and parent permission.

Each child receiving special education services will be reviewed formally at least one time per year to determine the appropriateness of the placement, the progress made toward mastery of goals and objectives designated on the child’s IEP, and any modifications of the current plan necessary to make the child as successful as possible.

Continuing special education students will be assessed by the appropriate personnel every three years (Triennial) to ensure appropriateness of placement and plan.
SPECIAL EDUCATION TERMINOLOGY

Adapted Physical Education (APE): a related service provided by an adapted physical education specialist who assists children with motor activities such as balance, climbing, and ball skills.

Assessment: observations and testing of children in order to identify the strengths and needs of the child, develop an appropriate educational program, and monitor progress.

Audiological Services: related services provided by a licensed audiologist who identifies children with hearing loss and helps them to use their strengths and abilities.

Autism: a disability; a child with autism is extremely withdrawn, has difficulty communicating, and exhibits behaviors unique to this disorder (e.g., ritualistic behaviors, hand flicking, compulsive need for “sameness”).

Behavior Disorder: a disability; extreme behaviors a child has that may interfere with that child’s ability to learn. See also ED.

Cognition, Cognitive Skills: Intellectual abilities such as thinking, reasoning, and understanding skills.

Communication Handicap (CH): a disability; a difficulty with receptive (understanding) language or expressive (speaking) language to the extent that it interferes with a child’s ability to learn.

Facilitating parent involvement is a means of improving services and a positive result.
**Community Advisory Council (CAC):** a group of parents of children with disabilities, members of the community, students, and special education professionals who advise the school board and school district administration about special education programs.

**Compliance Complaint:** a complaint against a public school agency filed by a parent or other individual, or by a public agency or organization, when it is believed that the public educational agency has violated federal or state law or regulations relating to special education (e.g., not implementing the IEP as developed). The complaint may be filed either with the superintendent of the local school district or with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Criterion Referenced Tests:** tests that measure a child’s ability to perform a variety of tasks according to specified criteria. These tests are not “standardized” to the performance of other children.

**Deaf-Blind (D/B):** a disability; an impairment of both vision and hearing that affects a child’s ability to learn.

**Designated Instruction Services (DIS)/Related Services:** instruction and services that are determined to be necessary for the child to benefit educationally from his/her instructional program (e.g., language, speech and hearing [LSH] therapy, occupational/physical therapy [OT/PT], vision services, and specialized physical health care [SPHC] procedures).

**Due Process:** the procedures used to make sure that parents and educators make fair decisions about the identification, assessment and placement of children with disabilities; due process rights are guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).
**Emotional Disturbance (ED):** a disability; a behavior problem that prevents a child from learning or from getting along with other people; the behavior must occur for a long period of time and be severe.

**Fair Hearing/Due Process Hearing:** a formal hearing conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings to resolve a disagreement about a child’s educational program; Mediation is recommended prior to the hearing, which is a formalized process.

**Fine Motor Skills:** those skills involving hand use or the use of small muscle groups (manipulating toys, drawing, buttoning, etc.).

**Full Inclusion:** a term meaning that children with disabilities spend their entire day in a general education classroom.

**Gross Motor Skills:** those skills involving the use of large muscle groups (rolling, crawling, sitting, walking, etc.).

**Hearing Impairment (DEAF, HOH):** a disability; hearing loss that interferes with a child’s ability to understand or use language and that affects his/her learning.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** calls for all procedural safeguards to be established and maintained by each non-educational and educational agency that provides education, related services, or both, to children who are individuals with exceptional needs (formally called PL94-14).
**Individualized Education Program (IEP):** a written document that states a child’s current level of educational performance, specifies annual goals and short-term instructional objectives, and identifies appropriate services needed to meet the goals.

Other agencies that have their own individualized plans:

- **Individualized Care Plan** - Medicaid
- **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)** - all agencies, for ages birth to three years old
- **Individualized Program Plan (IPP)** - Department of Developmental Services, Regional Center
- **Individualized Transition Plan** - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- **Individualized Transition Plan** - all agencies, for ages 15 and over
- **Individualized Written Rehabilitation Plan** - Vocational Rehabilitation
- **Treatment Plan** - Health Department

**Informed Consent:** a parent’s written permission to assess or place a child in a special education program.

**Integration:** the joining of two groups that were previously separated; in this case, non-disabled children and children with disabilities. A child who is placed in a special day class (SDC) has opportunities to interact and learn with non-disabled peers. These interactions can occur in the regular education classroom or during non-academic activities such as recess and lunch.

**Intellectual Disability (Formerly MR):** a disability; a delay in a child’s ability to learn and to function independently in his/her everyday environment; the disability can be mild/moderate or severe/profound; previous terms used include Educable Mentally Retarded (ER) and Trainable Mentally Retarded (TMR).
**Language Delay**: a lag or slowness in the development of a child’s ability to use or to understand language.

**Learning Disability (LD/LH)**: a disability; problem using language, remembering, concentrating, following instructions, reading, calculating, or learning through listening or looking.

**Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**: a term meaning that children with disabilities must be educated (to the maximum extent appropriate) with children who are not disabled.

**Mainstream/Inclusion/Integration**: terms meaning that children with disabilities spend as much time as is appropriate in a regular education classroom.

**Mediation**: an informal meeting that is held when parents and school district personnel cannot agree on a child’s educational program; this step comes before a due process hearing.

**Multidisciplinary**: assessment of a child that involves a number of different professionals.

**Multidisabled**: a disability; a child with two or more disabilities.

**Nursing Services**: a related service provided by a school nurse who focuses on health-related concerns.
**Occupational Therapy (OT):** a related service provided by a licensed occupational therapist who assists children with fine motor activities and everyday tasks like eating, dressing, and hand use.

**Orientation and Mobility (O & M, O/M):** a related service provided by an orientation and mobility specialist who teaches children with visual impairments how to know their position in space and how to move from place to place.

**Orthopedic Impairment (OI):** a physical disability; a child’s difficulty getting around his/her environment without adaptive equipment.

**Parent Counseling/Parent Training:** a service in which parents receive help in understanding the special needs of their children.

**Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD):** a neurological disorder that causes difficulty in talking, playing with other children, and relating to others, including their family.

**Physical Therapy (PT):** a related service provided by a licensed physical therapist who assists children with gross motor activities such as rolling, sitting, and walking.

**Placement:** when a child is assigned to a special education classroom or to other special education services; placement occurs after the IEP is written.
**Preschool:** refers to classrooms that serve children ages three to five years old.

**Program Specialist:** a specialist who is knowledgeable about special education and available programs, and is responsible for assuring that children receive needed available services and full educational opportunity.

**Psychological Services:** related services provided by a school psychologist, which include educational assessment and support for children and parents.

**Referral:** a recommendation for assessment to determine if a specialized service is required and at what level.

**Related Services/Designated Instructional Services (DIS):** a term referring to support services children may need in order to benefit from their educational program.

**Resource Room:** a special education classroom for children who are in a regular classroom for more than half of the school day.

**Reverse Mainstreaming:** when non-disabled children go to the special education classroom to play and learn with children who are disabled.

**Self-Help Skills:** a term relating to those skills associated with feeding, dressing, and toileting.
Self-Contained Classroom: a special education classroom where children receive instruction in all developmental and academic areas.

Severe Disorder of Language (SDL): see CH
***Note: Listed on IEP under Specific Learning Disability.

Social Skills/Socialization: those skills associated with how children get along with adults and peers in home, school and community settings; with young children it also refers to their play skills.

Special Day Class (SDC): a classroom that is appropriate for children who would benefit from specialized services for over half of the school day; the children receive most of their instruction from a special education teacher.

Special Education: instruction that is adapted to teach children with special needs.

Special Needs: children with special needs are children who must have special adaptations made to their instruction in order to learn and reach their potential.

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI): adapting, as appropriate, to the needs of the child with a disability the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.

Specialized Physical Health Care (SPHC) Services: medical procedures required by a child while at school (e.g., tracheostomy care, gastrostomy tube feeding, catheterization, oxygen, etc.)
Speech Therapy/Speech, Language, Hearing (SLH) Services: related services provided by a remedial language and speech therapist or a speech pathologist who helps children learn to communicate.

Standardized Tests: tests used to measure a child’s abilities in relationship to other children.

Transdisciplinary Team: a number of professionals working together, often with a parent, teaching each other while working with children with disabilities.

Transition: a time in a person’s life when he/she moves from one educational program to another (e.g., from the Early Education Program to preschool or from high school to work/higher education).

Traumatic Brain Injured (TBI): a disability due to acquired injury to the brain by an external physical force.

Vision Services: related services provided by a teacher of the visually impaired who helps children use their visual abilities efficiently and provides specialized instruction to blind and visually impaired children.

Visually Impaired (VI-Blind): a disability; a vision loss that affects a child’s ability to learn. Functionally Blind: The child acquires most information through actual and auditory means. Functionally low vision: The child acquires most information through vision.

Your child’s most important teacher is...YOU!
Words to Live By
Commitments for Parents

1. I will always love and respect my child for who she/he is and not for who I want her/him to be

2. I will not burden my child with emotions and problems she/he is not equipped to deal with remembering that I am the parent and she/he is the child

3. I will, when discipline is necessary, let my child know that I disapprove of what she/he does, not who she/he is

4. I will set limits for my child and help her/him find security in knowing what is expected of her/him

5. I will make time for my child and cherish our moments together, realizing how important - and fleeting - they are

6. I will create a loving home environment and show my child that she/he is loved, whenever and however I can

7. I will be sure to give my child space - to grow, to dream, to succeed, and even to fail

8. I will encourage my child to experience the world and all its possibilities, guiding her/him in its ways and taking pains to leave her/him careful but not fearful

9. I will take care of myself physically and emotionally, so that I can be there for my child when she/he needs me

10. I will try to be the kind of person I want my child to grow up to be - loving, fair-minded, moral, giving and hopeful
Searching for Gold

Look beneath the freckles
Look beneath the grin
Look for that which sparkles
Buried deep within.

Look beyond the whining
Look beyond the tears
Look beyond the runny nose
The frowns, the mess, the fears.

Search for that which glitters
Treasures to unfold
Search beneath the surface
Search and find the gold!

by Jean Warren
NOTES
Personal Reference

School____________________________________

Telephone__________________________________

Teacher____________________________________

Principal____________________________________

Psychologist_________________________________

Program Specialist___________________________

CAC Representative___________________________

Transportation Dispatcher:

Before 8:00a.m.______________________________

After 8:00a.m.______________________________
TEACH ALL OF ME

Teach me to know myself, making each day a step toward self-fulfillment. Academic experiences must be meaningful to me. Caring parents and professionals guiding my way, honoring my abilities while I strive to compensate for my disability.

All that I learn today leads to what I become tomorrow. Let me take responsibilities.

Offer me the opportunity to grow. Foster my motivation and pride.

Measure me by all the spokes of my individuality. Expect the best that I have to give. I will seldom fail, for then you will have taught all of me

Katharine Tillotson