



The RITES FACTS

Information you can use ♦ (401) 723-4459 ♦ info@ritutorial.org ♦ www.ritutorial.org

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. **Recognition and Referral:** If you have concerns about your child, write or email your district's Special Education department or your school's principal and ask about a screening for special needs.

Goal: A referral for professional evaluation through your school system or a private practitioner.

2. **Professional Evaluation:** An evaluation, performed by a speech pathologist, child psychologist, occupational therapist, or neurodevelopmental doctor in order to help you understand your child's needs and how to advocate for them.

Goal: A professional evaluation for your child to pinpoint specific areas of strength and deficit.

3. **Planning:** After an evaluation, a team of professionals can produce an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or a 504 Plan, which can specify developmental goals, specialized instruction and/or accommodations, and needed services.

Goal: An IEP or 504 plan

4. **Treatment and/or Accommodations:** For an IEP, student receives services from special education teachers, therapists, counselors or other professionals. For a 504 plan, student receives accommodations.

Goal: Implementation of goals in IEP or accommodations in 504 plan

5. **Progress and Assessment:** A meeting at school to review progress and set new goals or accommodations as needed.

Goal: Attend meeting to discuss progress and set new goals.

6. **Re-evaluate:** Students receiving special education services or other services are re-evaluated every 3 years. Students who complete all their goals are re-evaluated to determine whether services are needed anymore.

Goal: A review of the student's diagnosis and treatment.

Helpful Hint: Make sure you date and keep copies of all your correspondences.