



SEPTEMBER SPEECH NEWS

Is Your Child Receiving School Support for Speech or Language?

If your child receives speech-language services at school, you may have questions about their IEP (Individualized Education Program) and what it means for their communication development.

An IEP is a plan designed to support a child's individual educational needs. For children receiving speech-language services, the IEP may include communication goals, accommodations, services, and information about how progress will be monitored.

This information is for educational purposes and is not legal or educational advocacy advice. IEP procedures and timelines may vary by state and school district.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness

Children may communicate through spoken language, sign language, AAC, gestures, facial expressions, or a combination of methods.

Providing accessible communication and honoring each child's preferred communication methods helps children participate, connect, and feel understood.

Where to Start?

1. Talk with the teacher.

Share your concerns and ask how your child is doing and what supports are currently in place.

2. Contact the school.

You can request an evaluation in writing if you believe your child may need additional support.

3. Share your concerns.

Provide information about what you're seeing at home and any relevant outside evaluations or reports.

4. Review results of evaluation, if recommended.

If your child qualifies, you'll work with the team to develop an IEP based on their individual needs.

Speech & Language for Back to School

Talk About Your Day!

- At Breakfast:
 - Your toast is hot, let's cut it!
- Getting Dressed:
 - First socks, then shoes
- In the Car:
 - I see a big truck. Where is it going?
- After School:
 - What did you play?
- At Bedtime:
 - First pjs, then we read a book.

Talking about what your child is already doing gives them meaningful opportunities to hear and use language throughout the day!



Make the School Transition Easier with:

- Visual schedules
- Simple, predictable language
- Practice with school routines
- Pretend play
- First-then language & timers

Five Back to School Tips

1. Practice Following Directions

Help your child know what to expect by talking through their school routines.

- First we get dressed, then we eat breakfast.
- After school, we are going home.

2. Talk About Their Day

Ask Specific Questions:

- What did you play with?
- Who did you sit next to?
- What was your favorite part?

3. Build Independence

Create natural opportunities for your child to communicate independently.

- Ask for help
- Request an item
- Make a choice
- Tell you when something is wrong

4. Practice Social Communication

Practice Phrases Such as:

- Greetings ("Hi, my name is __")
- Can I have a turn?
- Can you help me?
- What is your name?
- Do you want to play?

5. Read & Talk About Books

While you are reading, talk about:

- Who, where, what happened, what do you think will happen next?

