What is a Facilitated IEP Meeting?

Facilitation gives parents and districts the chance to resolve their special education concerns on their own, in a less formal process, and is provided at no cost to the parent. A facilitated IEP meeting is the same as an IEP meeting, except that a facilitator joins the meeting. The facilitator helps with communication among team members and does not make decisions about the student’s IEP. Here’s more information in English and Spanish. This video explains the benefits of a facilitated IEP, and how to access a facilitated IEP. Nevada PEP has On-Demand trainings, the Introduction to Individualized Education Programs training has great information right at your fingertips. Click Here to View this informative training.

Shared Reading Tips

Shared reading lets kids be active readers rather than passive listeners. They get to apply the concepts they learned during read-aloud, and thus they are more likely to remember them. When you have a shared reading experience, you are helping your child learn to read by having conversations about the story. Here are some tips to support shared reading. Our workshop How is my Child Reading? focuses on helping participants understand terms that are used when discussing reading and writing. Don’t miss this workshop full of valuable information on how children learn to read and write. Click Here to View.

Early Hearing Detection and Reading
A study funded by CDC’s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) was recently published in The Journal of Pediatrics. The article, entitled “Reading proficiency trends following newborn hearing screening implementation,” describes trends in reading proficiency among school-aged children in Colorado who are deaf or hard of hearing. Read more about Reading Proficiency of Children with Hearing Loss. Also, listen to the Podcast in English and Spanish.

Reducing Stress

From minor challenges to major crises, stress is part of life. And while you can't always control your circumstances, you can control how you respond to them. When stress becomes overwhelming or chronic, it can affect your well-being. That's why it's essential to have effective stress relievers that can calm your mind and body. Check out these effective stress management techniques. To learn more about reducing stress visit our Families SHARE page.

Upcoming Webinars

Great opportunities to increase your advocacy skills and improve education opportunities for your child. Register for these informative FREE trainings.

- Presented by Nevada PEP

**Transition Planning: Navigating Your Future**
Monday, November 14, 3pm - 4pm

**How Is My Child Reading?**
Wednesday, November 16, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Help Your Child Focus On**
What is Section 504?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (commonly referred to as Section 504) is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Those programs include public school districts, institutions of higher education, and other state and local education agencies. To qualify under Section 504, a student must have a disability and that disability must limit a major life function. A child who has a disability but does not qualify for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may still be entitled to services or accommodations under Section 504. The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADA) broadened the definition of disability in the ADA as well as in Section 504. Section 504 requires a school district to provide a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) to each eligible student in its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. To understand the process here is a Section 504 Flow-Chart. Our Understanding Section 504 and Civil Rights workshop is designed to provide an understanding of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 504, and to ensure that a child who has a disability receives accommodations that will improve their academic success. Click Here to View.

Help Kids Get Organized

Being disorganized can cause a great deal of grief for kids with executive functioning issues and ADHD. But with the right tools — and the right support — they can build the skills they need to overcome organizational challenges, get better at managing their time, stop losing things, and start feeling more in control. Plus, tips for taming messy rooms and handling homework stresses and more.
Nation's Report Card

Below is a statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on the latest results from The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): "The results released from the National Assessment of Educational Progress are appalling, unacceptable, and a reminder of the impact that this pandemic has had on our learners. The data also represents a call to action for the important work we must do now for our students, especially those who have suffered the most during the pandemic." Read more in this press release.

Suicide Proofing Your Home

The Pandemic has put a lot of stress and anxiety on families. Children are struggling with mental health needs such as depression. According to the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention suicide is the first leading cause of death for Nevadans ages 12-19 and second leading cause of death for ages 20-44. In these stressful times, parents might want to think about Suicide Proofing their home. This brochure is in English and Spanish which offers tips and ideas for keeping your family safe.

Social Media, Apps, and Sites Commonly Used by Children and Teens

Digital media and apps allow children to communicate with peers and share their thoughts or feelings. This can be an avenue in which cyberbullying can occur. There are many types of apps and sites available for free that give users the ability to search for people and share or post information anonymously. Parents may not be aware of the apps that their children use regularly. Click here to see “Popular Social Media Apps and Sites. To learn more about Bullying Prevention visit our #SafeAllies page.

Personnel Qualifications under IDEA

OSEP recognizes that states are facing many challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including worsening the impact it has had on the shortage of special education teachers and related services providers. Some states have policies and procedures in place that may not be consistent with
IDEA requirements. OSEP believes it is critical that state educational agencies are fully aware of the IDEA requirements related to personnel qualifications and alternate certifications. The attached memo describes these requirements. Read the Memorandum Personnel Qualifications under Part B IDEA.

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Positive Words are Powerful

Using positive language around children gives them clear guidance about what good behavior means to you without making them feel confused or bad about themselves. Our words and tone of voice have a profound effect on children. By using positive words, day in and day out, everywhere in school, and home we can empower children, improve their self-esteem, help them to learn new skills and become their best selves. Here are some examples of positive language.

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CDC Milestone Tracker

Milestones matter! Track your child’s milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with CDC’s easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips from CDC for encouraging your child’s development; and find out what to do if you are ever concerned about how your child is developing. Photos and videos in this app illustrate each milestone and make tracking them for your child easy and fun!

App by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Are You Passionate About Helping Families?

Apply Here for employment opportunities in Northern, Southern, and Rural Nevada.
Hear the Latest PEP Talk Podcast?

Nevada PEP presents a series of podcasts on topics of interest for families. As parents we all wonder if our children are hitting those milestones. PEP parents discuss lived experiences with some of those speed bumps that sometimes pop up on the milestone highway and provide tips for parents. Check it out click HERE.

Partners in Policymaking

The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting applications for the Partners in Policymaking Class of 2023. This class is offered to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members and provides training in best practices over a wide range of issues. Applications are available till November 30th in English or Spanish. Participants are required to attend all virtual courses. For more information click here.

Youth MOVE Nevada News

Happy November, everyone! Last month we saw a lot of success with our activities recognizing bullying awareness and prevention, and we intend to carry that momentum into this
month. We have a brand-new podcast episode that we’ll be releasing later this month in which our team spoke with a professional about ADHD, how to recognize it, and ways to live with it productively. We continue to hold virtual meetings every Tuesday for youth to get together with their peers across Nevada. For more information about YMNV or to get involved in future meetings and activities, be sure to check out our website and don’t forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Transition Corner**

**Transition Experiences Matter**

Understanding what has been most successful for others can help parents and youth determine what to focus on in their transition plan. RAISE and IMPACT recently released the results of a nationwide survey on which transition activities are most likely to lead to post school employment, education, and satisfaction with life. The results overwhelmingly show that transition experiences matter!

**Statewide Family News**

As we enter the season of changing weather, school breaks, and the holidays, children and youth with behavioral and mental health needs may experience a change in their mood. Parents know and are experts on their own children and may notice changes during certain times of year. Significant changes in mood and behavior could be seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Youth are also impacted by seasonal grief, or a significant loss in their life. You can find tips on [How to Support Young People Processing a Loss This Winter](#) and as always, contact us for additional resources.

**AmazonSmile Program**

When you use your existing Amazon.com account to shop through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to Nevada PEP. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same
Smith's Inspiring Donations

Helping Nevada PEP is easy!
Simply enroll your rewards card by going to Smith's Inspiring Donations. Once you're successfully enrolled, choose Nevada PEP as your organization of choice. A portion of your purchase will be donated from Smith's. (Does not affect your normal Smith's card rewards!)
Watch a step by step "How to" video here