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September 11, 2025

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## What is a Functional Behavioral Assessment?

A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) is a process schools use to figure out what's behind challenging behaviors and come up with possible solutions. Parents are crucial partners and can offer valuable information about their child's behaviors. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## A Happy and Resilient Child

Raising a happy and resilient kid requires more than just encouragement—it involves fostering hope. Here's how hope plays a central role in their wellbeing. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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## Talking with Kids About Traumatic Events

The recent school shooting has evoked many emotions—sadness, grief, helplessness, anxiety, and anger. After any crisis or [disaster](#), families struggle with what they should say to children and how to help them cope. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages parents, teachers, childcare providers and others who work closely with children to filter information about the event and present it in a way that their child can understand, adjust to and handle in a healthy way. Here are some [tips to use](#) when talking to children.

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# UPCOMING WEBINARS **LIVE** ONLINE



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

- Presented by Nevada PEP

## **Coffee Tea and IEP** **(In-Person Workshop)**

### **Las Vegas Office**

Thursday, September 11

11:00am-12:00pm

Don't miss this small group in person learning opportunity for families! This guided interactive discussion will explore the special education process and encourage meaningful participation in IEPs. You'll leave with new ideas that encourage high expectations that lead to success for students with disabilities. Please **call 702-388-8899** to register!

## **My Child is Struggling in School: What is My Next Step?**

Tuesday, September 16

5:00pm-6:00pm

In this workshop we will discuss what to do if your child is struggling at school or if you suspect they may need special education. You will learn what schools can do to help and about the special education evaluation process.

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

## **Options to Resolve Special Education Concerns**

Thursday, September 18

5:00pm-6:00pm

Do you need new ideas to support your child's behavior? This webinar will help parents understand their child's challenging behaviors and learn evidence-based practices to teach your child new positive behavior skills.

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

## **Understanding Section 504**

Tuesday, September 23

5:00pm-6:00pm

Section 504 protects students with disabilities from discrimination and exclusion. Join us to learn what a 504 Plan is, how it is different from an IEP, and how a Section 504 Plan can help your child succeed.

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

Looking for more convenient times? Did you know our Free On Demand webinars are always available 24/7 in English and Spanish [click here](#).

## **History of IDEA** **Learn about Rosa's Law**

In 2010, a strong act of advocacy led to a significant change in federal law—one that replaced a term long viewed as offensive and outdated with respect and dignity. This legislation, known as Rosa's Law, not only changed the language used in U.S. federal statutes but also marked an important step toward greater acceptance and respect for individuals with disabilities.

Specifically, it replaced the term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in federal health, education, and labor policy. Among the many laws it affected, one of the most important was the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**. In Nevada, the changes became effective on **October 1, 2013**, after the state's legislature passed Senate Bill 338. Meet [Rosa's family and learn more about Rosa's law](#).



## Meet the New Team

About four to six weeks after school begins, and everyone has adjusted to the new school year, this may be a good time to schedule a meeting with the new IEP team. The meeting should focus on your child's progress, the effectiveness of current goals, and any necessary changes to services or goals for the school year. Sometimes goals may need to be adjusted or changed to reflect a student's progress over the summer, new information about their needs, or changes in their learning environment.

It's important for parents to remember your voice and input is critical – you are your child's best advocate. The IEP is an individualized educational program designed to meet the needs of your child. Many families find it helpful to keep an IEP binder to keep information organized and ready when you need it. This tool can also help you communicate and collaborate with the school. Here's a [checklist](#) and a [short video](#) to help you get started. Join the Nevada PEP [on-demand](#) webinar on Introduction to the Individualized Education Program to learn how to write measurable goals and learn some strategies to help parents become more active participants in their child's IEP meetings.

## Dispute Resolution

The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education developed [these videos](#) to help explain special education dispute resolution options - mediation and IEP Facilitation. If you need individual assistance, our PEP Specialists can help! You can reach out for support using our [Get Help](#) page or call 1-800-216-5188.



## Lunchbox Bullying: How Parents Can Help

Lunchbox bullying happens when children are teased, excluded, or made fun of because of the food they bring to school. Maybe they hear comments like: That smells disgusting, or why does your food look like that? For many kids, lunchtime is supposed to be a break from the school day—a time to relax and

recharge. But for those experiencing food shaming related to their lunch, it becomes a moment of stress, shame, and isolation. Here are some steps parents can take to prevent [lunchbox bullying](#).

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## Understanding Services for Your Child

To support your child, you may need information about your child's specific diagnosis, early intervention services, special education services, social security benefits, and much more. Here are some [resources to help you be your child's best advocate](#) to support your child's growth, development, and well-being.



### Fine Motor Skills

Many of your child's daily activities—like getting dressed, eating, and writing—require control of small muscles in the hands called fine motor skills. There are lots of activities that can increase muscle strength and coordination, from writing with a pencil, using a computer mouse, or playing a musical instrument. [This article](#) has some great activities that will help them build fine motor skills at home.

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### Parent Teacher Partnerships

Research shows that children thrive when their families are involved in their care and education. [Here](#) are some ways you can collaborate with your child's teacher to create and maintain a great relationship.

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### Learning Games for Kid & Toddler

Discover a fun way for kids to learn and play! Perfect for ages 2–6, this educational app features engaging games, colorful jigsaw puzzles, and creative coloring pages—all designed to teach letters, numbers, shapes, and more. With playful dinos and animals, offline access, and free content included, it's the perfect mix of learning and fun for curious little minds!



App by: [1CMobile](#)

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### Reflections on a New School Year

As we begin a new school year, here's advice from special education expert Rick Lavoie that may be helpful for teachers to make special needs kids in your

class feel warm, welcome, and wanted. Using the word **SEPTEMBER**, he shares [nine concepts](#) that can help all teachers in this effort.

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## Youth MOVE Nevada News

September is [Suicide Prevention Month](#), a reminder of how important it is to raise awareness and create safe spaces to talk about mental health. That's exactly what [Youth MOVE Nevada meetings](#) are all about: connecting with peers, accessing mental health resources, and sharing your story in a safe, supportive space. If you or someone you know is in crisis you can call, text, or chat [988](#). To learn more, give us a follow on [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#) and listen to our newest [podcast episode!](#)



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## Changes to the Child Tax Credit: What Nevada Families Need to Know

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) a major source of financial support for families—is changing in 2025. These changes could mean more money for some households and less for others, depending on certain factors. Click [here](#) to understand how these updates may impact your family.

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## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

[Vocational Rehabilitation](#) is a program that supports people with disabilities to prepare for, find, keep, and advance in meaningful employment. Students with disabilities aged 14-21 can receive [pre-employment services](#) to explore career and education options, learn how to speak up for themselves and other workplace readiness skills, and even gain work-based experience. Individuals with disabilities aged 16 and over can apply for VR services, and once found eligible will be assigned a counselor who will work with the individual to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) which includes [services and supports](#) tailored to their strengths, needs and employment goals.

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## Making Friends

Some kids naturally develop the skills involved in making friends, starting at a young age. Others need a bit more time. And some kids have underlying challenges that make it [harder to make and keep friends](#). If your child needs support, these [4 Skills for Making Friends](#) may help.

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## Hand in Hand

Nominate someone special who has made a positive difference in your child's life. Your special individual will receive a beautiful certificate, and a Hand in Hand lapel pin. Your story will be in our Hand in Hand Annual yearbook. Click [HERE](#) to make a nomination.



## Different Ways to Support Nevada PEP



### Support Nevada PEP at Smith's

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!)



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