

Advocating for Children with Special Needs: Selected Resources for Parents & Educators



*A resource guide developed to support
parents of children with special needs
and the educators who serve them.*

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Introduction

This resource guide was developed to support parents of children with special needs and the educators who work with them. The selected print and media titles listed in this guide are owned by the DeWitt Community Library. Additional titles may be found at other Onondaga County public libraries, and OCPL cardholders in good standing may borrow available materials from any library in the system. You can locate additional titles in the library system through the online catalog (<http://www.dewlib.org/>) or by asking one of our reference librarians for assistance.

In addition to the listing of Library-owned materials, this guide lists a number of Internet sites that offer extensive resources to help parents and teachers address the needs of children with disabilities.

General Guidance for Parents

Battle cries; justice for kids with special needs (Mirian Edelson,2005).

Parenting NEW 362.408 EDE

Edelson addresses the life-long challenges facing parents with children with disabilities, emphasizing community interaction and support within their communities. Includes detailed interviews with eight Canadian families who have children with severe disabilities, including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, Trisomy 18, deafness, CMV, and brain damage related to oxygen deprivation.

Brothers and sisters: a special part of exceptional families, 3rd edition (Peggy A. Gallagher, et al., 2006).

Parenting 362.82 Gal

This classic resource helps families and professionals understand sibling relationships and learn how to ensure life-long, mutually supportive relationships among siblings.

The parent to parent handbook: connecting families of children with special needs (Betsy Santelli, et al., 2001).

Parenting 649.15 SAN

Parent-to-parent programs give a parent a chance to be connected one-on-one with another parent who understands the issues and concerns of raising a child with a disability. This book

by two experts on the program describes how it works, how it helps, and how to start a program in your own community.

The special needs planning guide: how to prepare for every stage of your child's life (John W. Nadworthy and Cynthia R. Haddad, 2008).

Parenting 332.024 Nad

"This book is a general guide for helping families plan financial planning needs of the primary caregiver and the person with disabilities). The structure of the book follows a chronological guideline of the critical transition periods that families face. The book also focuses on identifying and protecting government benefits as well as strategies to supplement government benefits."

Steps to independence: teaching everyday skills to children with special needs (Bruce L. Baker et al., 2009).

Parenting 649.152 Bak

For parents of children from age 3 through young adulthood, this guide offers strategies for teaching children the life skills they'll need to live as independently as possible.

Includes a step-by-step guide to teaching specific skills such as self-help, toilet training, play, self-care, home-care, and information gathering skills.

When your child has a disability (Mark L. Barshaw, 2001).

Parenting 649.15 Whe

A general overview of the health care system for parents of children with disabilities, this book also offers detailed coverage of short and long-term care requirements for specific disabilities.

Advocacy for Children with Special Needs

Believe in my child with special needs: helping children achieve their potential in school

(Mary A. Falvey, 2005).

Parenting 371.9 Fal

Falvey, an educator and parent of a child with a disability, draws on her personal experiences to in this upbeat, positive, introduction to child advocacy. She draws on her own experiences as a parent of a child with a disability and as an educator to help parents advocate for their child throughout their school years and beyond.

The child with special needs; encouraging intellectual and emotional growth (Stanley I. Greenspan and Serena Welder, 1998).

Parenting 362.196 Gre

A comprehensive, step-by-step approach for parents to assist their children to master important developmental milestones in a manner that acknowledges children's uniqueness and avoids 'labels' that prevent children from achieving.

Listening to the experts; students with disabilities speak out (Elizabeth B. Keefe, ed.,2006).

Education & Teaching 371.90 Lis

Students with a wide range of disabilities describe their school experiences in both self-contained classrooms and inclusive environments. The students offer candid insights on practices and policies that helped and hindered them, elements that created positive learning environments, and the qualities of good educators.

Making the system work for your child with ADHA, (Peter S. Jensen,2004).

Parenting 618. 928 Jen

Written by a psychiatrist who is also the father of a son with ADHD, Jensen shares his own experiences as well as those of over 80 other parents to help you "troubleshoot the system without reinventing the wheel."

A parent and teacher's guide to the special needs child (Darrell M. Parke, 2005).

Education & Teaching 371.9 PAR

This is a good starting point for parents who are seeking information about their child's development and disability. It is also a good source for information about support services and resources. Easy-to-read, with numerous illustrations and photographs.

School success for children with Asperger's syndrome (Stephan M. Silverman & Rich Weinfeld, 2007).

Parenting 371.94 SIL

Children with Asperger's syndrome may experience unique challenges in school. This work combines a survey of Asperger's syndrome with practical strategies for success in the classroom. The appendixes include a checklist of classroom issues, an intervention plan, a quick reference to problem areas and interventions, program options, and advice for dealing with AS and ADHD.

School success for children with special needs, (Amy James, 2008).

Parenting 371.9 Jam

A book in the *Knowledge Essentials* series, this book offers parents practical guidance and resources for understanding and navigating the often confusing special education system.

You, your children, and special education; a guide to dealing with the system, rev. ed. (Barbara Coyne Cutler, 2010).

Education & Teaching NEW 371.909 CUT

A practical, common sense guide with sample letters and dialogues, realistic vignettes, and strategies for making parents effective advocates.

Testing

Straight talk about psychological testing for kids, (Ellen Braaten and Gretchen Felopulos, 2003).

Parenting 618.829 Bra

Written by two Harvard psychologists, this book offers a user-friendly approach to understanding psychological testing for children. Includes a number of case studies.

Understanding your child's test scores (CD) (Peter W. D. Wright) *ON ORDER*

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Accessible IEPs for all; gathering the experts around the table - DVD (Juliana Fabrocini, et al., 2007).

DVD Nonfiction DVD 371.904 ACC

View an actual IEP meeting on this clear and candid DVD that helps all IEP participants to gain expertise in developing measurable and meaningful goals that improve child outcomes.

All about IEPs; answers to frequently asked questions about IEP's (Pete Wright et al., 2010).

Education & Teaching 371.904 Wri

An easy-to-read resource for parents, educators and professional advocates that answers the most frequently asked questions about Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs).

A guide to collaboration for IEP teams (Nicholas R. M. Martin, 2005).

Education & Teaching 371.904 Mar

This is practical guide to managing IEP meetings "with a high level of awareness, safety, and confidence." Includes sections on promoting and maintaining collaboration to reach consensus, setting ground rules, preventing conflict, and managing time in meetings in order to effectively achieve your goals.

IEP Guide; learning disabilities, 5th edition (Lawrence M. Siegel, 2011).

Parenting NEW 371.909 SIE

Step by step, you'll learn how to:

- understand your child's rights
- prepare to make your case
- untangle eligibility rules and evaluations
- develop effective IEP goals
- figure out the best programs, services and teaching strategies
- get ready for IEP meetings
- resolve disputes with the school district
- do legal research on learning-disability issues

from <http://www.nolo.com/products/nolos-iep-guide-IELD.html>

Nolo's IEP guide; learning disabilities (Lawrence Siegel,2011).

Parenting 371.9 Ste

Nolo, a respected publisher of legal information for the public, offers a practical, current guide to understanding your child's rights, untangling eligibility rules and evaluations, and developing effective IEP goals.

Policy and Administration (for educators, but parents will find these useful, too)

The beyond access model; promoting membership, participation, and learning for students with disabilities in the general education classroom (Cheryl M. Jorgensen et al., 2010).

Education & Teaching NEW 371.904 JOR

Developed by three inclusive education experts from the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, this book "helps educators and administrators to create inclusive classrooms where students with intellectual and developmental disabilities not only participate and communicate, but also learn academic content."

Includes examples, checklists, forms and templates.

Key learning skills for children with autism spectrum disorders; a blueprint for life, (Thomas I. Whitman and Nicole DeWitt, 2011).

Education & Teaching 371.94 Whi

This book offers a road map for developing comprehensive intervention programs with techniques that are evidence-based for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Special education; a reference book for policy and curriculum development, 2nd ed. (Arlene Sacks, 2009).

Reference R371.9 Sac

This comprehensive reference resource provides an excellent introduction to special education, including how it developed, its curriculum, assessment issues, the law, and advocacy. Helpful for parents who want a better understanding of special education terminology, curricular issues, legislation, and policy.

Transitioning

Life beyond the classroom; transition strategies for young people with disabilities (Paul Wehman, 2006).

Education & Teaching 331.34 Weh

This fourth edition “brings together the most up-to-date, comprehensive information on facilitating transitions for young people with mild, moderate, or severe disabilities.”

Addresses inclusion in schools and in the community, postsecondary education, autism spectrum disorders, high-stakes testing and accountability, assistive technology, customized employment, Social Security benefits and work incentives, and self-determination.

Guiding your teenager with special needs through the transition from school to adult life; tools for parents (Mary Korpi, 2008).

Parenting 649.15 Kor

The first part of the book explains how families can adapt everyday routines in order to encourage the development of essential life skills the child will need as he matures. The second section is an overview of adult programs including: adult day programs, college, employment and residential and recreational opportunities. It includes critical information regarding eligibility requirements, financial support and legal concerns.

Laws and Regulations

From emotions to advocacy, 2nd edition (Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright, 2011).

Law 671.904 Wri

This self-proclaimed 'survival guide' takes a step-by-step approach to understanding the complexities of the law and helping parents to overcome the challenges and obstacles they may face when advocating for their child.

A guide to special education advocacy: what parents, advocates and clinicians need to know (2009).

Education & Teaching NEW 344.73 COH

Written by an attorney and disability rights expert (and parent!), this book explains in a clear manner the substance of the complex laws and strategies involved in special education advocacy.

Special education law, 2nd edition (Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright, 2011).

Law 371.9 Wri

A fundamental guide to special education law for parents, teachers, advocates, attorneys, related services providers, school psychologists, administrators, college professors, hearing officers, and employees of district and state departments of education. This newly updated guide includes the full text of relevant laws as well as commentary and analysis.

Special needs trusts, 4th edition (Stephen Elias and Kevin Urbatsch, 2011).

Law 344.73 ELI

Special Needs Trusts shows you how to leave any amount of money to your disabled loved one - without jeopardizing government benefits. It provides plain-English information and forms that let you create a special needs trust by modifying your will or living trust document.

Surviving due process; Jeffers v school board (Legal Advocacy Center, 2004).

DVD Nonfiction DVD 344.73 SUR

Takes you through a special education due process hearing from initial preparations to testimony by the final witness.

Selected Internet Resources

Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE)

<http://www.fape.org/>

FAPE links families, advocates, and self-advocates to information about the IDEA.

Internet Special Education Resources (ISER)

<http://www.iser.com/>

“ISER is a directory of professionals, organizations, and schools that serve the learning disabilities and special education communities. We help parents find local special education professionals for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder assessment, therapy, advocacy, critical teen issues, and other special needs.”

New York State Department of Education. Office of Special Education

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/>

“The Special Education Office provides assistance to parents, advocacy groups, and schools related to services and programs for students with disabilities. ...provide[s] the most up to date policy and guidance, technical assistance, professional development, and monitoring to attain equal opportunities and positive results for students with disabilities across New York State.”
see esp.: Assistance for Parents : <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/quality/parents.htm>

Wrightslaw: special education law and advocacy

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

A commercial web site that provides information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. Includes access to free articles, cases, and resources.

Understanding special education

<http://www.understandingspecialeducation.com/>

Written by a parent: “The goal of this site is to empower you as a parent to be the best advocate for your child. By bringing you the most parent friendly information on *special education law, learning disabilities, the IEP process and school success*, I want you to have the information you need right at your fingertips.”

United States Department of Education. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>

“The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.”

IDEA Resources

<http://idea.ed.gov/>

This site was created to provide a "one-stop shop" for resources related to IDEA and its implementing regulations, released on August 3, 2006.

