

**If you are the parent of an elementary age child:**

Think about what your son or daughter might do to support him or herself while developing Future Planning in the IEP.

Give your child specific responsibilities at home. Insist that he or she perform all the duties to your expectations.

Expect the same standard of behavior from your son or daughter with a disability as you do from any siblings.

Build in opportunities within your family's regular routines and activities for your son or daughter to make decisions and choices.

Talk with your child about your own and various other career opportunities.

Teach your son or daughter how to use tools and resources to solve everyday problems around the house.

Consider having your child attend all or part of his or her IEP meeting.

Expect good worker behaviors from your child at home or out in the community, such as following directions, taking turns.

Expect your son or daughter to independently take care of personal hygiene and grooming.

**Transition Planning: What Can Parents Do?  
If you are a parent of a middle school age child:**

Use the Future Planning step in the IEP as a place to begin documenting careers your child is interested in.

Use the profile section of the IEP to capture important information about your child that may relate to post-school life.

Talk with the IEP team about courses of study in high school that will prepare your son or daughter for careers of interest.

Involve your son or daughter in developing his/her IEP. Make sure they are invited to attend and participate in IEP meetings.

Talk with the IEP team about assessment that will identify your child's preferences, interests, needs and strengths.

Get your son or daughter involved in volunteer or community service opportunities.

Teach your child about budgeting and financial planning.

Talk with your son or daughter about skills and work behaviors needed for careers they are interested in.

Seek out resources and opportunities related to your child's career interest areas.

**If you are a parent of a high school age child:**

Make sure your son or daughter is invited to and actively involved in developing his/her IEP.

Encourage your child to take the lead in exploring the skills and education needed for careers of interest.

Review accommodations in your child's IEP to ensure they support your child to be as independent as he/she needs to for success in his/her future intentions.

Ask the IEP team about career education or work opportunities while your child is still in high school.

Talk with your son or daughter about the nature of his/her disability so they can advocate for their own needs.

Find out for yourself and your child how the laws are different for adult services than for schools.

Ask the IEP team about linkages to adult agencies and/or post-secondary education.

Support your son or daughter to become independent in dealing with the problems and dilemmas of everyday life.

Encourage your son or daughter to seek out a realizable future that matches well with his/her skills and strengths.