Navigating the IEP Process
By: Lora McConnell, M.A./CCC-SLP

What do you do if you have a concern about how your child is functioning at school? There are several specific steps you should follow and information you should know in order to get your child the help he/she might need.

- First talk to his/her teacher and see how they are doing in the classroom setting.

- Write a SPECIFIC letter/email outlining your concerns and ask for an evaluation. Be sure to document everything! Send it to the principal, school psychologist, and speech-language pathologist (if an area of concern).

- Be sure to provide any evaluations/testing/reports you may already have.

- Instead of an evaluation, you could ask that your child begin interventions through the RTI (Response to Intervention) process, where your child would be provided with interventions targeting the specific area of concern.

- If you request an evaluation, the school has 30 days from receiving the request to explain the process, get your permission, and set up testing.

- The school has 60 days from receiving your permission to do full testing in the area(s) of concern. They will write an Evaluation Team Report (ETR) documenting testing conducted and testing results. An ETR is conducted every 3 years

- If your child qualifies for services, an initial Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be written, and the student will get services based on the IEP.
A (IEP) meeting will be scheduled to set up specific goals for your child. Within another 30 days from the ETR and, as soon as possible, services begin. The IEP is reviewed annually.

- This can be a long process so stay on top of it! Know your rights and your child’s rights. You will be given the document “Whose IDEA is This?”, which is a helpful guide for special education.

- Remember: a child is eligible for school services only if the disability adversely affects his/her educational performance.

**If the school doesn't feel your child needs further services but you still do/disagree:**

- You may request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) – done by an outside site only in the areas tested by the school. The school will provide you with participating locations. An IEE may be paid for at public expense or by the parent, depending on location.

- You can also seek additional services/tutoring/therapy elsewhere

**WHAT DO ALL OF THOSE LETTERS MEAN?!?!**

- SLP – Speech-Language Pathologist
- OT/PT – Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy
- IS – Intervention Specialist
- RTI – Response to Intervention
- ETR – Evaluation Team Report
- IEP – Individualized Education Plan
- IEE – Independent Educational Evaluation
- ODE - Ohio Department of Education

**HOW DO I STAY INVOLVED IN MY CHILD’S PROGRESS?**

- The school will sent periodic reports updating goals. Review these carefully.

- Be sure to attend parent/teacher conferences. Additional professionals working with your child often attend these as well.

- Attend all IEP related meetings. Ask lots of questions.

- Remember: the IEP team is on the same team with you – they want your child to succeed, too!

- Set up time at home for nightly homework and targeting your child’s goals in a natural setting. Your child’s IEP team can give you ideas.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**
• Parent Mentors – free service, parent of a child with a disability employed by each school district, parent who can help answer questions and provide support.

• Parent Advocate – an advocate for you and your child paid by you to help to try and get the services you desire for your child

• OCECD – Ohio Coalition for Education of Children with Disabilities (Marion, OH) – statewide, non profit organization serving children and their families, and educators, agencies providing service to them.

• Interpreters are available if requested and set up prior to a meeting

• All of the above can help with transition services

• Whose IDEA is This? document

• Ohio Department of Education Website

• John Peterson Scholarship – funds for therapeutic services if your child has an IEP but is attending a private school

• Autism Scholarship – funds for additional therapeutic services if your child has received a diagnosis on the autism spectrum

• Talk Tips to Go! Columbus Speech & Hearing Center’s monthly newsletter highlighting various speech and language topics and resources for all ages. Email jails@columbusspeech.org to sign up!

It's Time to Celebrate!!!!
This past month we celebrated Lora McConnell's 20 years of service at the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center!! WOOHOO!!

Lora has worn many hats and provided numerous services during her time here at the center, which has included:

- small language groups
- individual language therapy
- speech and language evaluations
- providing services at Head Starts and CELC sites
- Teacher Talk and It Takes Two to Talk presentations
- Speech & Hearing Screenings and Chatterbox coordination
- working in our Language Early Learning Preschool Program
- OG training

Lora, Thank you for all you do and have done for the
The Columbus Speech & Hearing Center's Autism Diagnostic Clinic is currently scheduling evaluations for summer. Please call 614-263-5151 to schedule or ask any questions about our clinic.

Click here to see CSHC's Autism Diagnostic Clinic Flier.

Click here to see red flags for Autism.

Meet our ADC Team!

**Fall Speech Groups**

Fall Speech Therapy Groups will be starting the week of September 3rd.

- JAM
- Tiny Talkers
- Talk It UP

To find out more about our group programs check out our website www.columbusspeech.org or call 614-263-5151.
“We didn’t realize we were making memories, we just thought we were having fun.”
- Winnie the Pooh

“When a kid walks in a room, your child or anybody else’s child, does your face light up? That’s what they’re looking for.”
- Toni Morrison

In Loving Memory of Pam France

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of our beloved, Pam France.

Pam was an amazing speech pathologist, an encouraging mentor, an excellent colleague, and a true friend to all.

For 26 years at Columbus Speech & Hearing Center Pam dedicated her professional life to helping improve children’s communication skills.

Pam’s legacy will live on at the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center through the many clients, families, and colleagues she met and touched along the way.

We would love to gather pictures and stories of Pam’s work with her clients. If you would like to share yours please send them to us at lterrell@columbusspeech.org or via our Facebook page.
Mark you Calendars....

**National Stuttering Association Meeting**

This month the National Stuttering Association Columbus Chapter will meet at CS&HC on Thursday, September 5th, 2019 from 7-8 PM.

[Check out this flyer for more information about NSA.](https://example.com/nsa_flyer)

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**Transition Boot Camp**

Delaware County
September 2019 – Charting the Life Course

Where: Delaware County Board office – 7991 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, OH **Please park in the rear of the building and use the East entrance**

When: September 10, 2019 – 6:30–8:30 pm

[Please click here for flier.](https://example.com/transition_boot_camp_flyer)

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**Walks, Walks, and more Walks**

[dsaco Columbus Buddy Walk](https://example.com/buddy_walk)

EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE
Join our Columbus Speech & Hearing Center team by clicking here to register:
http://community.apraxia-kids.org/columbuswalk

Date: 09/15/2019
Registration: 9:00am
Walk begins at: 10:30am
T-shirt deadline: 08/01/2019

Venue: Coffman Park
Location: 5200 Emerald Parkway
Dublin, OH 43017

HALLOWEEN HOP

Our 5th Annual Halloween Hop
Meet and chat with a Speech-Language Pathologist from Columbus Speech & Hearing Center for a casual Q & A about your child’s speech and language development and how you can naturally support your child’s speech and development during every day routines and activities.

This Month's Chatterboxes:

- Thursday, September 5th Firefly Play Café
  @ 10:30-11:30 AM

- Thursday, September 12th Northwest Library
  @ 10:15-11:15 AM

- Wednesday, September 18th Old Worthington Library
  @ 10:30-11:00 AM

- Thursday, September 19th Columbus Fit 4 Mom North
  @ 10:00-11:00 AM
- Thursday, September 26th Little Explorers Base Camp at the Zoo Conservation Lake Pergola
@10:00-11:00 AM

Please contact Lora McConnell at (614) 261-5462 or lmconnell@columbusspeech.org if you are interested in scheduling a Chatterbox event at your location!

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**Contract Speech Services for Schools**

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center can contract with your daycare, preschool, elementary school, and/or high school to provide the following services:

- Yearlong Speech Therapy Services
- Speech-Language and/or Hearing Screenings
- Short-term Emergency Leave Coverage
- Extended School Year Services
- Educational Audiology & Hearing Aid Services
- Independent Educational Evaluations

For more information please call 614-263-5151.

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Find out what is happening this month at Columbus Speech & Hearing Center by following us on Facebook. [Click here to visit our Facebook Page](#)

Or

Check out our "Words of Wisdom" Wednesdays and our "Therapy Share" Thursdays on Instagram @columbusspeech.
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Click here to visit our website!