School supports

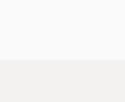
## **Understanding IEPs**

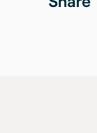


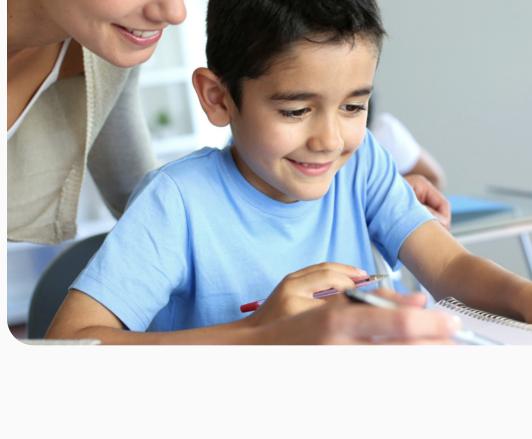












### **Learning about IEPs**

Knowing what's in an IEP **Navigating IEP meetings** Staying on top of your child's IEP

there's still a lot to learn about how the process works and what your role will be. This guide is designed to help you through every step of your IEP journey. It offers basic information, while also leading you to more detailed information and insights.

The more you know about IEPs, the more involved you can be in getting your child the best support possible. Learning about IEPs

If you just started learning about IEPs, you'll likely hear about many things that are unfamiliar to you. And you'll probably have lots

of questions. Who gets an IEP? What's the

#### difference between an IEP and a <u>504 plan</u>? Having answers to your questions can help you

decide if you want to pursue an IEP for your child. It can also help you advocate for your child with more confidence. Get basic information about IEPs.

process The process of getting an IEP for your child can be confusing. It's important to know what

evaluation for special education. Then the

for services and supports.

**IEP** 

build skills.

Discover what's in an IEP.

happens — and when. The first step is **having an** 

school must decide whether your child qualifies

How will the school make that decision? What

**Understanding the IEP** 

happens if the school decides your child isn't eligible? Learn about the process of how kids get IEPs. Knowing what's in an

many areas, using terms and information you'll likely have questions about. But all of those

If you've never seen an IEP before, the various

documents can be hard to decipher. They cover

#### progress — add up to the best program of instruction and supports for your child. The information in an IEP can give you a deeper understanding of your child's strengths and

challenges. And it should lay out exactly how

the school plans to help your child improve and

pieces — from testing results to goals for

**Navigating IEP** meetings Your child's special education program kicks off with an IEP meeting. The entire IEP team will be there. You may also hear from professionals at

school who were part of the evaluation process.

Some might provide services or supports for

your child. And that's just the first of many IEP

meetings you likely will attend over the course

IEP meetings can be stressful for some parents.

Knowing what happens at IEP meetings can

of your child's school years.

make it easier to navigate them.

Learn how to navigate IEP meetings. Staying on top of your child's IEP

The IEP journey continues well after your child's

plan is put into place. From here on, you'll play a

key role in making sure the plan is working and

that involve? What should you be looking for or

your child is making progress. But what does

asking about?

The IEP will change over time (and your role might as well) along with your child's needs. You'll also be involved in crafting a plan for

transitioning out of an IEP toward the end of

number-one advocate throughout the school

high school. But you'll still be your child's

years - and beyond. Find out how to stay on top of your child's IEP.

**Key Takeaways** 

• Your child needs an IEP to get special education

• You play a key role throughout the IEP process.

make sure your child is making progress.

• It's important to stay on top of your child's IEP and

services at school.

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# Tell us what interests you

Focus and attention

Following instructions

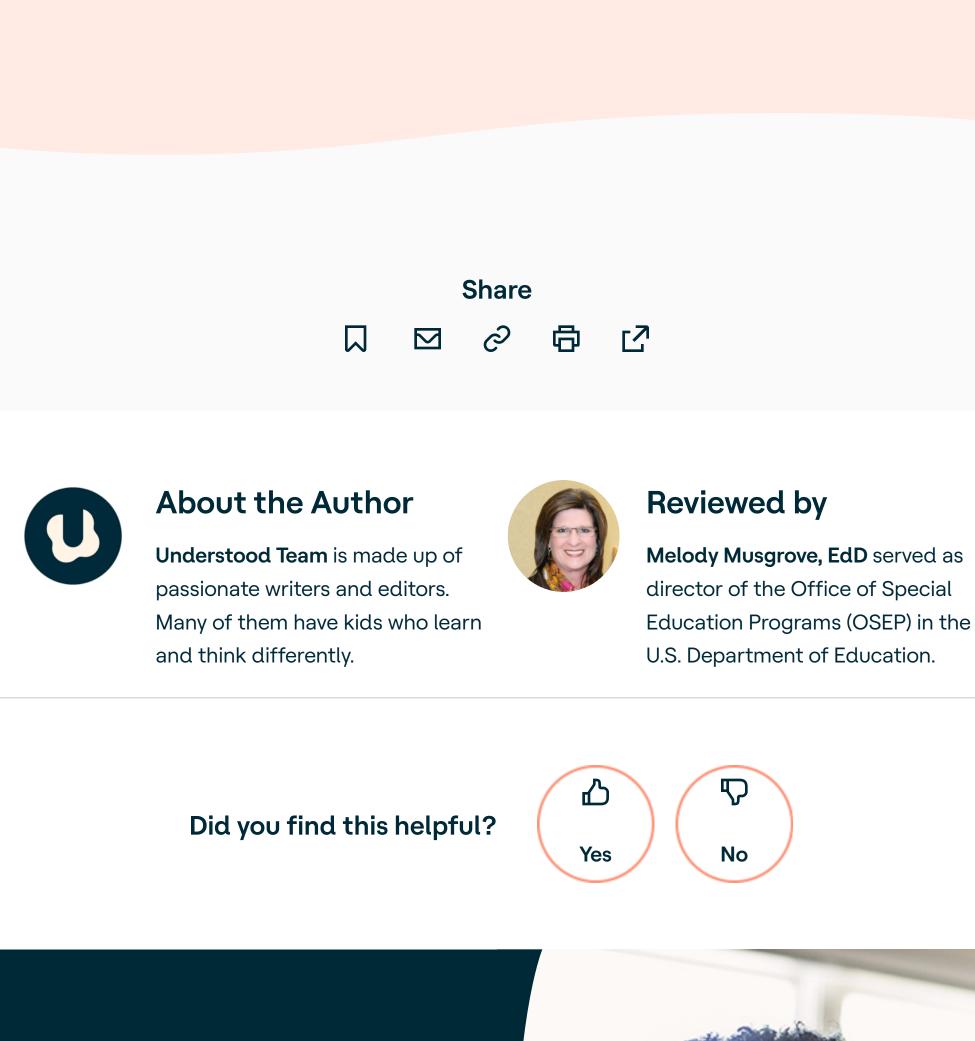
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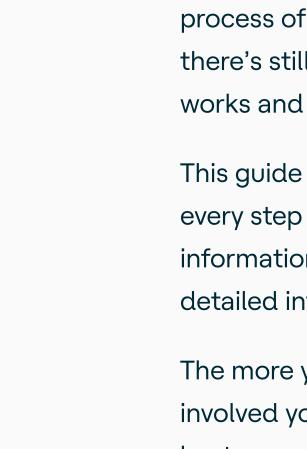
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For kids to receive special education services, they need an IEP — an Individualized Education Program. If your child has been evaluated, the

process of getting one has already begun. But

