



## Individual Education Plans (IEP)

As school begins again, your child may be placed on an Individualized Education Plan or an IEP.

### What is an IEP?

It is a specialized plan that is used as a tool to assist your child who learns differently. Teachers typically collaborate with parents and educational staff working with your child to develop the IEP.

**TIP:** If you, as a parent, are not invited to participate, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a meeting to discuss the IEP and to provide your input.

### What will the IEP say?

It will describe your child's strengths and weaknesses, goals for your child, accommodations and/or modifications to help your child reach their goals, specific supports your child will receive in addition to what the teacher will provide. You will be asked to sign the IEP once you are satisfied with its contents. A copy will remain in your child's school file and you will receive a copy.

### What happens to the IEP at the end of the school year?

As your child advances to the next grade in elementary school, high school and beyond, so will their IEP. It is common to update the IEP at specific points with each new school year, but the IEP can be modified at any point to improve it for your child.

**TIP:** To ensure the IEP best serves your child, it is beneficial for parents to keep ongoing communication with teachers from year to year.

**TIP:** It is helpful and important for parents to have knowledge of and understand the IEP and its process of development, which will in turn support your child with a positive educational experience.

\*<http://www.todaysparent.com> - "A Hand-holding Guide to IEP's" September 3, 2019

The John McGivney Children's Centre is fortunate to have on site the Learning Disability Association of Windsor – Essex County, who are committed to improving the quality of life for people with learning disabilities. Please contact them by email ([info@ldawe.ca](mailto:info@ldawe.ca)) or call 519-252-7889 for more information about the many programs they offer.