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IEP Tips

- Observations. Meet other parents in your child's class. When you observe your child, observe theirs also. Ask them to do the same.
- Record your IEP meeting, it is not adversarial, it makes you look educated. Give 24 hours notice for recording. Back the recording up immediately.
- Never go alone. Take someone with you to the IEP.
- Signing? Don't sign the IEP the day you have it. Take it home and review it. If there is a service or goal you agree to you can agree that they implement that, but that you do not consider this as an offer of FAPE.
- Put it in writing! If you have issues, document them in writing. Write them like you are Forrest Gump and talking to a stranger. Use full names and title of the person. Ask them to reply in writing. Be polite, but firm and try to not have emotions in there. Just the facts.
- Document discussion. If you have a conversation on the phone or in person that the teacher or staff will do something not in the IEP, write an e-mail stating how you understood the conversation. Ask them to reply in writing if this is not how they understood the conversation. (Them not responding is a response).
- Take your child out. If you don't take them while they are little you will be homebound when they are a teen. Go at slow periods of where ever you are going (example restaurant, start at 3 pm).
- Wandering.
 - If you have a child who wanders down load the NAA's Tool Kits. Read them and give them to the appropriate people in your life.
<http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/> Call your non emergency police number and ask them to put on your address and phone number that you have a child with autism in your home. This way if you call 911 they will already have this information to let 1st responders know.
 - Get to know your neighbors (Halloween and trick or treating is a great time). Make sure they know your child is not to be out alone.

- If your child wanders get your doctor to document in their patient file and to diagnosis them with the wandering diagnosis code.
- If your child wanders make sure the teacher, staff in classroom and the staff in the office, understand the NAA wandering protocol. Put your concerns about wandering in your child's IEP under parent concerns.
- Get a mentor:
 - <https://www.tacanow.org/about-taca/parent-mentor-program/>
 - <http://www.autismtreeproject.org/programs/parent-mentor-program>