

One-Liners for IEP Meetings

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Let us make a special effort to stop communicating with each other,
so we can have some conversation!

Judith Martin

Often when families attend Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings they feel overwhelmed and unsure of how to respond to what they hear. It can be helpful to have some statements or questions to ask that will apply to multiple situations.



One-liners to build relationships:

Let's review what we have agreed on.

It is great to be a true team member!

You have an incredibly talented staff!

My child knows he belongs and is seen as competent.

Thanks for agreeing to meet on a regular basis.

I appreciate that you capitalize on my child's strengths.

I really understand what my child is expected to do to reach his goals.

Thank you for writing such detailed progress reports.



One-liners to ask for clarification:

I have asked to receive the evaluation report and draft IEP one week before the IEP meeting.

Let's see if I understand where you are coming from.

Is that your personal or professional opinion?

What research supports that opinion?

I'm not interested in a program. I am interested in services and supports to meet my child's needs.

Can you help me understand why that was done?

What will it take to . . . ?

Please send me a copy of the statute, regulation, or policy that explains why . . .

I expect to see the data collected to show progress each week.

Could you give me some examples?

