



AT A GLANCE

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You're Not Alone

December 2011 Newsletter

You just received a notice for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. You have been to IEP meetings for your child before. When you think of going to another IEP meeting you feel:

- A. Overwhelmed, not knowing how to prepare for it
- B. Excited, thinking about the possibilities for your child while working with the school team
- C. Angry, remembering what the last IEP meeting was like with many disagreements and the lack of follow through
- D. Hopeful, that this year will be different
- E. Anxious, about being able to effectively speak up for your child

Parents of children with disabilities often need the support and knowledge of an educational advocate. This is true especially when there have been challenges during IEP or 504 meetings, or difficulties obtaining appropriate services for their son or daughter.

During this holiday season you may have family members or friends asking what they can give you. What if you suggested they give you the gift of time? Yes, it is possible! A gift of time of my advocacy services can be purchased as a gift certificate. This makes a perfect present for your wife, husband, partner, or friend! Relatives of children with disabilities can give a gift certificate to the child's parent and know they are making a difference in the future of a loved child.

Gift certificates can be purchased for one or more hours of my educational advocacy support, at only \$60.00 per hour. [Click here](#) to see the Winter Gift Certificate or Blue Swish Gift Certificate.

Contact Charmaine to buy the ultimate gift, the gift of time from a dedicated educational advocate!

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I have earned the respect as a trusted educational advocate. I draw from my experiences as a retired special educator, general education classroom teacher, and parent of a son with a disability to assist parents to obtain what their child needs to be successful in school. I am available to review IEPs, evaluation documents and 504 Plans, attend meetings with parents, observe students, share resources with parents, and much more! [Click here](#) to read about all the services I offer.

Identify your vision:

Use your voice:

Work together:

of what kind of life you want for your child

to identify what your child needs to be successful

with Charmaine to ensure you have a strong voice at the IEP table



Resources

Humor can help us get through the day. Sometimes humor can also be painfully true. Watch this [video](#) about a special education referral. [Click here.](#)

Would you love to have an easy to read, magazine-like format blog to read? Some of the articles are written by me and others are scooped from a variety of sites. Go to [Beyond Special Education](#), then click on the blue Follow button in the right hand corner.

Check out, [What's On My Bookshelf](#) on my website.



Websites

Parents can watch free online videos about the IEP process. These were developed by Disability Rights Texas, so you will hear the IEP meeting described as an ARD (Admission, Review, and Dismissal) meeting. But the advocacy tips apply to parents living in any state. [Click here](#) to see the [videos](#).

Looking for an advocate or attorney?

The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates' [website](#) has a state by state listing of attorneys and advocates. [Click here](#) to access the list.



As a parent and an educator, I bring 30+ years of experience and enthusiasm to create positive change for students, families, and educators! How may I support you? Click the links below to learn more.

[Parent Liaison](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Educational Consultant for Schools](#)

[Click here](#) to SIGN UP FOR MY FREE MONTHLY [E-NEWSLETTER](#)!

Let us share our **Visions** of possibilities and opportunities.
Honor the **Voices** of students, families, and educators,
Choose to work **Together**,

To achieve Educational Success for All!

Please let me know if you're interested in one of my presentations and/or customized consulting and coaching.

What we anticipate, determines what we find!

Charmaine Thaner

STAY IN TOUCH



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