Resource List for Parent/Professional Collaboration
SSD Family & Community Resource Center
Parent Education & Diversity Awareness
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Accessible IEPs for All: Gathering the Experts Around the Table. (DVD) (2007) (45 minutes)
Clear and candid DVD – ideal for staff professional development and for sharing with parents – will help IEP teams maximize every participant’s expertise and develop measurable and meaningful goals that improve child outcomes.

An Accidental Advocate: A Mother’s Journey with Her Exceptional Son. Kathryn Burke (2011)
Kathryn writes with candor about the steep learning curve and emotions that accompany being a parent of a child with exceptional needs, and her family’s experiences in dealing with the education and health systems.

Provides real-life strategies and techniques that can be used immediately, including how to develop behavior modification plans, how to decide if and when to use medication and how to work with clinical and educational professionals.

Regardless of whether your child has autism or another disability requiring special education, this useful handbook provides significant legal advice and information to help you take on the school district, or maybe avoid a confrontation altogether.

How-to guide for those who require life-long assistance with personal care and daily living tasks due to a physical disability.

Be Your Child’s Best Advocate. 100 Strategies for Children with Learning or Behavioral Issues. Peggy Schmidt
Helps parents understand and accept what is preventing their child from performing and interacting successfully in school and in social situations. This book is intended to be a voice of encouragement and direction to parents who have not yet found the courage for connections to get help and support for their child. Also contains guidelines for parents who want to improve their effectiveness in getting the right help for their child.

Handbook to help parents by demystifying complicated issues, celebrate their child’s abilities and show them how to be successful advocates throughout their child’s education.

Helps you carefully consider how to make your IEP team meetings better. It presents a clear, three state framework: preparing for the meeting, conducting the meeting, and developing a legal and educationally sound IEP.

Shows you how to obtain the necessary assessment(s) that will help you to better understand a child's strengths and weaknesses. It also describes what an educational "accommodation" is and how it can serve as a bridge to learning.
Contains both a review of research that confirms the positive impact of parental involvement on student achievement and a guide for implementing proven strategies for increasing that involvement.

Includes 60 strategies and 180 practice activities designed to improve communication and collaboration skills

Collaborative Teaming (Teacher’s Guides to Inclusive Practices). Martha Snell, PhD & Rachel Janney, PhD (2005)
Guide to forming effective collaborative teams that help stimulate students’ academic progress and social behavior in general education.

Walks readers through the entire IEP process, explaining eligibility rules and assessments in plain language, and gives advice on developing the child's IEP each year, preparing for IEP meetings, and resolving disputes with the school district.

Includes information about collaborative IEPs, stories from families and educators, legal cites from IDEA ’97 and quotes.

This book is intended to provide parents of students with autism with necessary information for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and includes relevant information from the 1997 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Gives you the tools to: Prepare for high-stakes situations; Transform anger and hurt feelings into powerful dialogue; Make it safe to talk about almost anything; Be persuasive, not abrasive.

Provides basic information for parents and families of children with disabilities from birth on, with particular emphasis on those who are between birth and entering school age. Provides basic information about rights under recent legislation and the service system parents may encounter. Also includes the educational assessment process, how parents can work with multiple service providers to manage the large amount of information that accumulates, tips about handling the IEP meetings, due process and transitions.

Written to provide vision, information and strategies for the inclusion of children with disabilities into general education

Focused on assisting parents on helping parents with what they need to know and do at each developmental level throughout the elementary school years.

Book written for practitioner’s who must work with families but who have insufficient training in family systems and assessment and intervention.

Learning Disabilities Association of Massachusetts Multidisciplinary viewpoints, perspectives and strategies focus on academic, collaborative, social, psychological and family issues.
Provides educators a framework for understanding families of children with autism, the stressors they face, the barriers to building collaborative relationships, and the ways professionals can help these families cope.

Teaches readers how to: Overcome barriers to meaningful communication; Expand and enrich conversations with colleagues, friends, and family; Increase clarity and improve understanding; Handle strong emotions-on both sides of the table.

From Disability to Possibility. Patrick Schwarz (2006)
Illustrates, through stories of struggle and success, how creative, conscientious teachers can work with everyone involved in a student’s learning to make special education work.

Practical and user-friendly book includes hundreds of strategies, tips, references, warnings and Internet resources. Appendices help to find contact information for hundreds of disabilities information groups, parent training and information groups, state department of education and legal and advocacy organizations.

This guide describes functional behavior assessment (FBA), a highly regarded strategy that parents and professionals can use to identify the factors contributing to the problem behavior.

Offers a concise, step-by-step, proven strategy for coming to mutual acceptable agreements in every sort of conflict –

Helps administrators, teachers, resource professionals, and parents work together to design, review and modify IEP’s for children with special education needs. Includes checklists, outlines, diagrams and specific examples to make the complex simple.

Practical handbook that offers methods to defuse angry parents and to gain the cooperation of parents who accuse, blame and enable.

Program gives professionals everything they need to support parents with a wide range of disabilities or learning challenges as they learn about child health and safety.

Gary Mayerson has devoted his career in law to helping children with autism get the fair and appropriate education that they need and deserve. In this field guide, he brings parents up to speed quickly and efficiently on the ways educational bureaucracies work—or more importantly, don’t—for children with special needs.

The book explores how parents can prepare their child for school life and how they can work with teachers to improve the classroom environment, as well as the school environment as a whole, for their child and consequently for the benefit of all pupils.

Gives information on how to become an effective advocate, get a state charter and tax-exempt status, train parents on their rights, reach out to other parents, lobby and get results, make headlines, open new services in the public schools, develop a newsletter, organize a conference, raise money and much more.
Specifically written for parents of children with autism or Asperger's Syndrome, this guide demystifies special education laws to help them understand their legal rights and the rights of their child.

I to I: Self Concept and People with Developmental Disabilities. Dave Hingsburger (1990)
Dave Hingsburger, therapist, author and friend to people with developmental disabilities, writes an engaging and philosophical manual of how to work respectfully and successfully with individuals who have intellectual disabilities.

Book serves as a guide to answer parent's questions and provide them with the necessary tools to promote their child's learning.

Provides general and special education teachers with ready-to-use techniques, sample completed forms, and tips for increasing the involvement of parents of students with special needs.

If you believe that there is something wrong with your child, but have yet to get a diagnosis, this book will help you through the period of uncertainty when you have to negotiate healthcare and education services.

Practical guide shows families of children with developmental disabilities how to establish a network of non-paid people that can provide lasting relationships for their son or daughter.

Teaches educators a variety of techniques for handling the interpersonal challenges they face every day. Written for educators at all levels, this essential resource provides guidance on how to nurture successful relationships with parents, supervisors and peers.

Provides parents with a practical understanding of the assessment process, equips parents to become a key participant in the process, and helps parents learn to use assessment outcomes to improve services for their child.

The Lighter Side of IEP’s. (1993)
This booklet offers a humorous perspective on important guidelines for developing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities, which respect the values of collaboration, student and family leadership, and full inclusion.

Text is packed with practical and easy-to-implement strategies for integrating individuals with disabilities into summer camps, school clubs and teams, park and recreation programs, YMCA activities, community theater, and many other activities.

Making the System Work for Your Child with ADHD. Peter S. Jensen MD (2004)
There’s lots of help out there for kids with ADHD, but getting it isn’t always easy. Where can you turn when you’ve mastered the basics and “doing everything right” isn’t enough – the insurer denies your claims, parent-teacher meetings get tense, or those motivating star charts no longer encourage good behavior
Covers all the crucial components parents and advocates need to consider from anticipating a child is not succeeding in a program or school to seeking an evaluation; from planning an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), to understanding classroom placement options and monitoring progress.

Provides school leaders and classroom teachers with new and creative ways in which to welcome, encourage, and involve parents.

A unique, comprehensive resource kit that supports teachers and schools with creative materials for all kinds of family outreach efforts.

Parents Can Be the Key. Pacer Center. (2009)
Handbook that helps parents navigate the special education system and help their children receive services.

This practical guide gives you all the important and pertinent information necessary to survive, and interpret, the myriad rules and regulations surrounding the educational, social, vocational, and environmental needs of your child with a disability.

Step by step the authors reveal the stages of identification, assessment, and intervention, and help readers to better understand special needs children's legal rights and how to become an active, effective member of a child's educational team.

Provides practical insights and approaches for forming partnerships between professionals and parents for the benefit of children with disabilities.

Covers topics ranging from what it means to be deaf to the many ways that the environments of home and school can influence a deaf child's chances for success in academic and social circles.

Covers topics such as recognizing and diagnosing Asperger's syndrome, addressing the needs of students with Asperger's, implementing successful practices in the classroom, working with the school system, and providing interventions in the home to help develop needed skills.

Describes how parents and teachers can work together to create nurturing, supportive, and effective classroom environments from preschool to high school.

Gives parents and teachers of students with conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, mood disorders, or other emotional and behavioral disorders the strategies they need to help these kids overcome their struggles and find success in school.
From learning how to manage the emotional overwhelm of parenting a special needs child, to figuring out how to get the school to say yes to special education services, the author presents a roadmap so you can find your way through all the confusion.

Combining research on families and family-centered services, text provides practical suggestions for caregivers, especially those whose children are at risk or have disabilities.

We Said, They Said: 50 Things Parents and Teachers of Students with Autism Want Each Other to Know. Cassie Zupke (2013)
Voices what parents and educators want to say to each other, but don’t. It explains why they do what they do. It helps fill the chasms of misunderstanding that breed assumptions like “They don’t care about my child,” and “They’re just in denial.” It gives educators and parents the necessary tools to build the relationships they need to help their children.

When the School Says No… How to Get the Yes: Securing Special Education Services for Your Child. Vaughn K Lauer. (2014)
Offers parents of children with autism and other disabilities a unique way of approaching and tackling the problems that can arise relating to the provision of special education services.

Offers parents of children with disabilities a variety of practical ideas to improve effective interaction between parents and school staff.

Book tells how to build partnerships between businesses, service providers and natural support systems to achieve positive employment outcomes.

Offers emotional support to families of children with disabilities and should help educators and health-care professionals better understand these parents’ perspectives.

Packed with sample letters and dialogues, realistic vignettes, and solutions to large and small problems, this practical survival guide will help parents become strong, independent, and effective advocates - so that their children will get the education they need to reach their full potential.