



Send This Page To A Friend

Search our Site



Wrightslaw | No Child Left Behind | IDEA 2004 | Fetaweb | Yellow Pages for Kids | Harbor House Law Press

Home > Advocacy > Articles > How to Handle Disagreements at IEP Meetings (or Playing 20 Questions with the Devil)

Holiday Special!



**Free Shipping & Autographed Books**

2006 Training Programs

**Feb 2: Duluth, GA**

**Feb 11: Atlanta, GA**

**Mar 3-4: Fort Worth, TX**

**Full Schedule**

**Wrightslaw Programs**

---

Free Newsletter!  
The Special Ed Advocate

Your Email:

Your Zipcode:

**Subscribe**

## How to Handle Disagreements at IEP Meetings (or Playing 20 Questions with the Devil)

by Sonja Kerr, Esq.

Parents often say that when they go to IEP meetings, the school staff won't answer their questions or listen to their requests.

Here is a good approach that parents can use when caught up in the a IEP meeting quagmire.

**1. Take a piece of paper, draw a table with three columns. Head them like this:**

### What Mom Wants - School's Response - Resolved?

**2. Make your list.**

In the first column, make a list of what you want for your child. Don't get mired up on how to word it, just write what you think your child needs.

For example, "he needs 1:1 reading help" or "He needs counseling once a week" or whatever.

**3. Take this paper with you to the meeting.**

As the discussions begin, tell the IEP team that you have a few questions too. At various points in the meeting, ask very sweetly for whatever is under column one.

Many times school officials don't respond to parent's questions.

If they don't respond to you, just say, " I'll just take that as a no, then, okay?" or "I'll just write that one down as 'no response.'"

This will confuse them because you are not arguing, you are just asking and taking notes.

select a page . . .

Wrightslaw

[Home](#)

[Topics](#)

[Free Newsletter](#)

[News](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Press](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Advocacy Library](#)

