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SPED NEWS

May, 2007
Parent Edition

Editor:
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Sevier County Special Education Moves to Individual Education Plan Development in EasyIEP

Dr. Jeff Romanczuk

The next Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting you attend, you will notice a lot of difference in the look of the IEP and some difference in the process. Sevier County began using EasyIEP in February of this year. It is a World Wide Web-based IEP development database. Many of the school systems in Tennessee are now using EasyIEP. The biggest change to the process is that the IEP Team must now develop a draft IEP in advance of the meeting date, finalize that IEP at the meeting, then enter these meeting updates into the database to get a final IEP.

The evaluation and re-evaluation processes are not in EasyIEP. So these and things like the Conference Summary (our famous “pink sheet”) will still be done on paper at the meeting. After the meeting, once everyone has had a chance to make changes to the IEP, the special education teacher will make these corrections and send you a final IEP.

In my opinion, two features that are the **biggest improvement** are the 6-week progress reporting and what is called the “IEP at a Glance.” The progress reports will have the same number and alphabet letter to indicate the student’s progress on each goal. However, each goal also has an area for the teacher to add a few sentences about the student’s progress on that goal since the last grading period. The other feature I like, the IEP at a Glance, is not intended for the parents, but for the regular, general education teachers who work with your child. It summarizes in one or two pages what the goals are and what accommodations (if any) your child needs.

The database was developed and is maintained by Public Consulting Group and uses the same security precautions that banking sites use to protect the privacy of the students’ information.

If you would like further information, call or e-mail Jeff Romanczuk (453-1036, jeffromanczuk@sevier.org).

PRIME-TIME LEARNING

Children's brains are working all the time – not just while they're in school! Summer is a great time for learning. Here are some ways to turn home and family time into prime learning time for your youngster.

Observe closely. Learning starts with observation. Help your child explore the work around him by offering items such as magnifying glasses, bug-catching jars, thermometers, and rulers. Then, your youngster can view objects and living things up close. Ask him questions: "How big is it?" "How many legs does it have?"

Get into the kitchen. Your child can learn many math and science concepts in the kitchen. Let him use measuring cups and water to compare fractions (1/2 cup, 2/3 cup). Ask him to help when you bake cookies, and he'll witness chemical reactions firsthand.

Opt for hands-on. To develop creativity, encourage your youngster to build castles and cities with construction toys (blocks, Legos, Tinkertoys). Set up an "art table" stocked with paper, colored pencils, glue, watercolor paints, and clay. Suggest that your child make a sculpture or draw a cartoon strip.

Use the newspaper. Have your youngster pick an article and circle any words she doesn't know. Then, ask her to reread the article and see if she can guess the words' meanings from the context. Give her some hints: Look for clues in the surrounding sentences and photos or find synonyms (words with the same meaning) for her "mystery work." Guess the definition and then check it in the dictionary. Give a high five for each one right!!

May 8, 2007 – Tuesday – 3:45
***Becoming Involved in Your Child's
Education/School***

Presenter: Kendra Davis, Sp. Ed. Consultant Sevierville
Middle School

SPECIAL NEEDS SUMMER CAMPS

On the Knoxville News Sentinel website are listed numerous camps for students with special needs. The address is: <http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/cda/article>.

Below is information on the first ones listed.

- **Camp Discovery** – for physically or mentally challenged, in Gainesboro, TN
- **Camp Horizon** – for students with cancer, in Kingston Spring, TN
- **Celebration Camp** – for moderately mentally challenged young people ages 10-22, in Townsend, TN.

SUMMER FUN

Eye Spy Websites

www.classbrain.com

www.50states.com/tennessee.htm

www.zoodisney.com

www.coolmath4kids.com

www.whitehouse.gov

www.yahooligans.com

www.lycosforkids.com

www.askjeeve.com