



Below are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). While the questions relate to IEPs, the information can be applied to any specialized learning plan implemented in a teacher's classroom.

## What is an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

- An annual written statement that describes an education plan for a child who qualifies for special education services.
- It is developed by a team including members of the school staff and parents, relatives, or guardians.

## What is my role, as a Head Start teacher, during the IEP process?

- The Head Start teacher provides valuable information before, during, and after IEP development.
- The Head Start teacher knows the child's strengths and interests.
- From assessment and observation notes, the Head Start teacher knows what skills the child is having difficulty with and where he or she needs more support.
- This kind of information can lead to the development of a meaningful and functional IEP.

## What happens after an IEP is developed?

- An IEP (or any other learning plan) serves as a "road map" for guiding the teaching team in helping a child accomplish the important goals and objectives that have been outlined.
- It might be helpful for a classroom teacher to meet with a disabilities coordinator, specialists, and the child's family to discuss strategies for working on the goals stated in the IEP or other learning plans.

## What is my role, as a Head Start teacher, after the IEP is developed?

- The Head Start teacher helps to implement the IEP, working together with specialists and families.
- The Head Start teacher breaks the annual goals down into smaller parts for everyday teaching.
- The Head Start teacher meets on a regular basis with specialists and the child's family.
- Through planning and providing teaching opportunities, the Head Start teacher helps the child make progress toward learning the goals that are written on the IEP.
- One of the important roles for the Head Start teacher is to work together with families and specialists in collecting information about the child's progress on an ongoing basis.

