

# Key Principles Underlying the IEP Process: Supporting Family Participation, Inclusive Practices and Positive Outcomes for Preschool Children with Disabilities

Available from <https://ectacenter.org/topics/iep/keyprinciples.asp>

*Developed by the NECTAC Workgroup on Principles and Practices for the IEP Process, May 2012*

The overarching **goal** statement is intended to reflect the broad purpose of services provided under [Part B, Section 619 of IDEA](#) to support positive outcomes for children with disabilities, ages three through five, and their families. The **principles** are the foundation necessary to support the system of services and supports and are intended to reflect key values for the [Individualized Education Program \(IEP\)](#) process.

## Key Principles

### Goal

Preschool special education is to enable young children to be active and successful participants in home, school, and community settings resulting in positive outcomes for children and their families.

### Principle 1

Preschoolers learn best through meaningful everyday experiences and interactions within developmentally and linguistically appropriate routines, play, and activities in inclusive settings.

### Principle 2

All families, with appropriate supports and resources, promote their children's learning and development.

### Principle 3

The primary role of preschool special educators and related service providers is to provide and support high quality services in collaboration with families, teachers, and caregivers to promote positive outcomes for children and families.

### Principle 4

Throughout the preschool special education process, the child's individual strengths and needs, along with the family's culture, priorities, and preferences, are respected and reflected.

### Principle 5

IEP goals based on multiple sources of information, including family concerns and authentic assessment, support and promote access to and participation in the preschool curriculum.

### Principle 6

Professionals build partnerships with families and support them as the primary decision makers for their children.

### Principle 7

Preschool learning experiences are developmentally appropriate and based on recommended practices.