

The IEP Crash Course



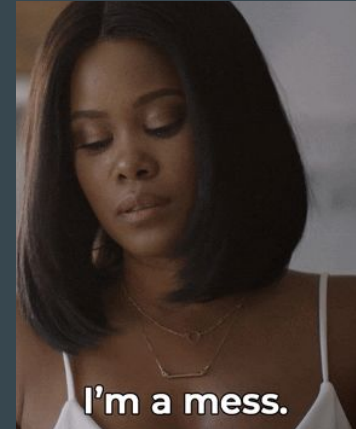
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Hi.... I'm Erin

- Rare Mom (STXBP1), Regular Mom, Wife, Marketer & IEP Coach
- Got really good at securing service hours for my daughter and want to help rare families and kids with complex needs secure the services and accommodations they need to be successful



Agenda

- My backstory
- IEPs at High Level (Mentality)
- IEPs on the Real (Practical To-Do's)
- How to Work with an IEP Coach
- Q&A



Meet Lucy



Born Perfect



Seizures Day 3



STXBP1



Therapy

Meet Lucy



Therapy Helps!

- 5 hours of PT
- 5 hours of Speech
- 2 hours of OT

1st kid in PA to have in-person services resumed during Covid



Rare Kids Need Rare IEPs

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Rare Kids Need Rare IEPs - Service Hours

- Medically complex / Hospitalizations / Illnesses are frequent
- Seizures or infantile spasms
- Tired from meds or over exertion
- Time to warm up / Motor Planning
- Joint tightness
- Repetition, Repetition, Repetition



Things to Remember

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Remember: IEPs are like a Roadmap

- **GET YOUR ROADMAP** (the IEP document)
 - Where your child is (Present Levels)
 - Where you want your child to go (Goals)
 - How you're going to get there (Services/Supports)
- **PLAN YOUR ROUTE** (Strategy)
 - Pick your destination
 - Prioritize your journey
- **RINSE and REPEAT**
 - IEPs are never done
 - IEPs are never perfect
 - Always something to work on



Remember: IDEA Protects Your Child's Rights

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

“To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living”



Remember: You are your Child's Voice

- Nonverbal kiddos can't speak up
- It's our job as parents to help them optimize their skills and advocate
- Speak from the heart, be genuine about the things you're hoping for in your child's education so the IEP team can help you get there
- *“Don't Ask, Don't Get”*



Remember: You are an active member of the IEP Team

- You are an **active member** of the IEP team
- You need to go into the meeting with confidence
 - You know your kid the best
 - You have AND will know them the longest
- Things you have control over include:
 - Date / Time / Attendees / Agenda
 - Location - virtual or in-person
 - Calling an IEP meeting at any time
 - Final decisions



Remember: You get more bees with honey

- Assume the best, plan for the worst
- Compliment the things you LOVE seeing
- Gifts or notes of appreciation/collaboration go a long way



Remember: To be assertive

- You will not get the best offer in round 1 - there needs to be negotiation
- You know what's best, you need to make a case for it
- Speak from your heart
- Bring a “security blanket” if you need one
- If you don't know what do say →



Remember: IEPs are a Process - try to be patient

- There are steps that sometimes have to be taken in order to get the things that you want
 - Meetings are normal when you're requesting
 - Data collection is normal
 - Letter writing can get a lot accomplished
 - You need a "no" before you get a "yes"



Tactical To Do's

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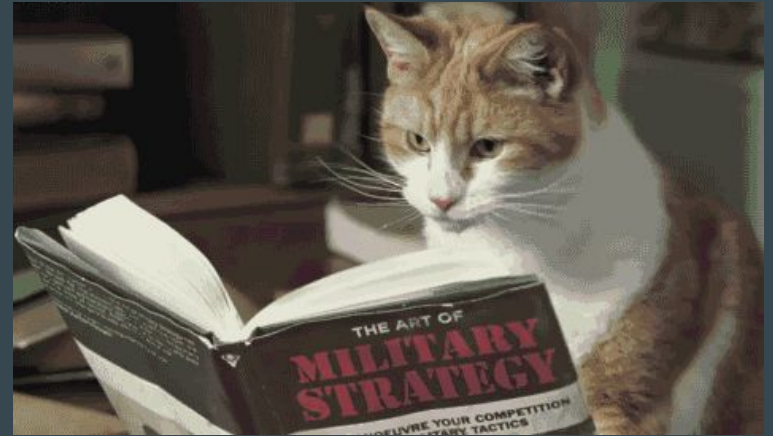
Prep the Team

- Submit your **child's strengths** and your **parent input** before the meeting
- Make sure the team is aware of all the great things your child can do, motivations, etc.
- Sending this in advance will give the team insight as they start to develop goals



Prep Yourself

- Request a **PRINTED** copy of the IEP in advance **WITH hours** associated in each of the therapies
- Get a red pen and a highlighter and mark it up with questions, comments, changes you'd like to see
- Write yourself an Action Plan



Know your Priorities: What's the hill you're willing to die on?

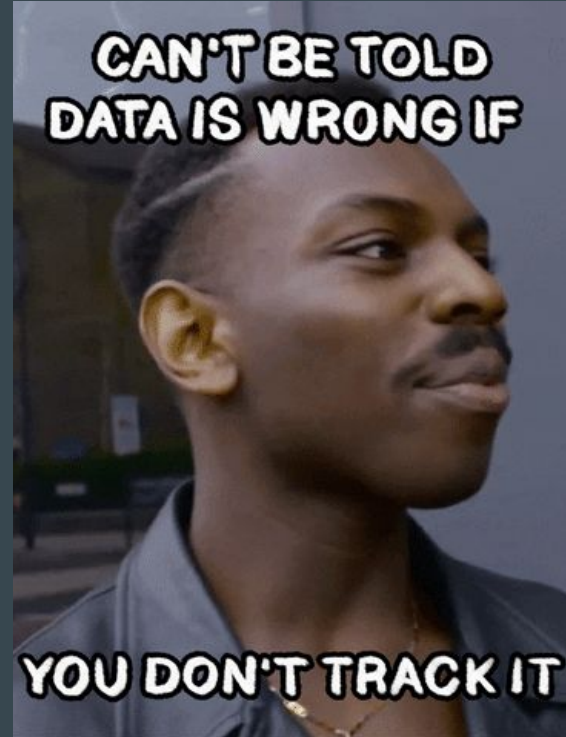


Remind them of your child



Make The Data Make Sense

- Used in either direction
- Make sure the data makes sense to you
- Percentages or “out of 10”
- We want data to tell a story



Things you can ask for

- The IEP in advance***
- Service hours in advance
- The Date/Time/Location of the Meeting
- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Attendees
- More therapy / Less therapy
- A different therapist
- An AAC evaluation
- AAC trainings for family/team
- 1:1 Aide/Para
- ESY / Services During Breaks
- Transportation
- Compensatory Services
- Classroom accommodations



Still Need Help?



Work with me, it'll be fun...ish

Thank you!

For more info on IEP Coaching:

www.erinprosser.com

To set up your 20-min FREE consult or to learn more about pricing:

1. Top 3 Concerns about your child's IEP
2. 3 Dates and Times that work for you

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Follow Lucy's journey, silly memes, my family chaos, and IEP tips on Instagram on my personal handle [@eprosser](https://www.instagram.com/eprosser)

