



Preparing for the IEP Meeting: Clarify Your Interests

Step 1: Think about the IEP in the context of your longer-term plans

What is your child working toward? What is your vision for your child’s life after high school? For IEP purposes, think about further education, employment, and independent living.

Step 2: Determine your current priorities

What are your priorities for your child’s annual IEP meeting?

Step 3: Clarify your interests

Shifting your focus from positions to interests can give the team more options to consider or lead to more creative solutions.

- **Position** = **what** you want to happen (a particular solution or strategy)
 - Example: My child struggles with reading and needs Orton-Gillingham for reading instruction.

What is your **position**?

- **Interest** = **why** you want to happen (your underlying reason or motivation)
 - Example: I want my child to be able to read at grade level.

What is your **interest**?

Step 4: Align with future vision

How does the interest you listed above align with the longer-term vision?

- Example: This will provide a foundation for communication skills needed for future work and community engagement.
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