

# 5 Steps to Becoming Your Child's BEST Advocate!

**1** Start with the assumption that you are an *equal partner* in your child' education.

**2** Deal with your perceptions or feelings about yourself as a parent of a child with special needs.

**3** **Acquire knowledge!**  
You don't have to memorize or know everything but be aware and ask questions. And don't be intimidated!

1. Know about IDEA 2004 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)
2. Know that not all issues are controlled by the local school system.
3. Know how "the system" operates.
4. Know the people.

**4** **Improve your skills!**

1. Communication
2. Documentation and Letter Writin
3. Record Keeping

**5** **Participate!**  
This is the **most** important thing you can do for your child!

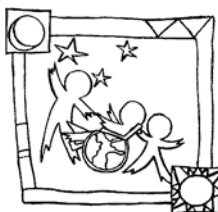
**Participate in:**

1. The development of your child's IEP (Individualized Education Program)
  - share your ideas
  - attend all meetings!
2. Teacher conferences
3. Parent Group meetings
4. School functions



**Remember...**

**You are an equal partner in your child's education!**



**exceptional children's assistance center**

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