

LOOMM

June 26, 2015 Agenda

Short Prayer

Introduction: Geraldine Ochoa

Lynn Street

Individuals: name, number of children, why are you here?

Goal of group: create a community of parents, family, professionals who are willing to work together and support each other through sharing information and resources and possibly attending one another's IEP meetings.

Declaration statement:

We are not lawyers and cannot give legal advice but we will share our experiences and information that we have found to be effective in advocating for our children.

We use the book From Emotions to Advocacy as our guide along with Special Education Law, Ed 2 written by Peter Wright.

We are about

Teaching you how to organize, plan and use your emotions effectively

Research, planning and preparing

Facilitating connections and linking parents to other parents / professionals

Empowering individuals through education of a complex process so you can more effectively advocate for your child

We are NOT about specific needs / disabilities

What we expect from families

You are the expert on your child, you need to become the expert on your child's disability and his needs and/or what you think it is and be willing to share information

That you learn to keep good records

Bring a notebook and take notes.

- Rules:
- Active listening
 - Treat others or refer to others with respect
 - Need for Privacy of others
 - Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how and explain
 - No judging, patronizing, bullying, shaming, criticizing, blaming

Getting started: You will need

- 2 binders – one for ALL communications/records from school

 - One for what the school gives you when you ask for records

 - Log of communication /calendar – phone calls, informal chat with anyone regarding your child’s education – log date, time of day, person, who initiated conversation—gist of conversation

 - Homework log—how long is it taking, how much of a fight, how much help is given—what is expected

- Think about your child
 - What do you want for your child in the long run?
 - What are strengths/weaknesses?
 - What are his/her needs?
 - Why?
 - How are they going to be met?
 - Who is going to meet them?
 - When?
 - Where?

- Start gathering information

- Attempt to diffuse conflict/ keep emotions under control/bring snacks