



LIBERATED HANDS PARENT TOOLKIT

EVALUATION PREPARATION GUIDE

Understanding the School Evaluation Process

Helping Families Navigate Special Education with Confidence

A Parent's Guide to Understanding the School Evaluation Process

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Part of the Liberated Hands Parent Toolkit Series



UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL EVALUATIONS







A school evaluation is designed to better understand your child's strengths, challenges, and educational needs. The goal is not to label your child, but to gather information that helps determine the most appropriate supports and services.

Evaluations may assess areas such as learning, communication, behavior, motor skills, or social-emotional development. The results help the school determine whether your child qualifies for services and what supports may be beneficial.

As a parent, you are an important member of the evaluation team. Your observations, concerns, and questions are valuable throughout the process.



TYPES OF SCHOOL EVALUATIONS

| Evaluation | Purpose |
|--|--|
|  Educational | Assesses reading, writing, and math skills. |
|  Psychological | Evaluates learning, thinking, memory, and problem-solving. |
|  Speech & Language | Assesses communication and language development. |
|  Occupational Therapy (OT) | Evaluates fine motor, handwriting, and sensory needs. |
|  Physical Therapy (PT) | Assesses movement, strength, and mobility. |
|  Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) | Identifies why challenging behaviors occur and how to support positive behavior. |

PARENT OBSERVATION WORKSHEET



MY CHILD'S STRENGTHS

MY CONCERNS

QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK

INFORMATION I WANT THE SCHOOL TO KNOW



QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS

- Why is an evaluation being recommended?
- What areas will be evaluated?
- Who will complete the evaluations?
- How long will the process take?
- When will I receive the evaluation reports?
- How will the results be explained?
- What happens after the evaluation is complete?
- Can I request additional evaluations if needed?
- Who should I contact if I have questions?



MEETING NOTES

DATE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

TEAM MEMEBERS PRESENT:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

NEXT STEPS

YOU'VE GOT THIS



Receiving a recommendation for an evaluation can feel overwhelming, but remember—an evaluation is a tool to better understand your child's unique strengths and needs.

Every child learns differently, and every child deserves the opportunity to receive the support they need to thrive.

Continue asking questions.

Continue learning.

Continue advocating.

Your voice matters, and you are an essential part of your child's educational journey.

CONTINUE LEARNING

Watch more videos on:

Navigating Special Education Together

 YouTube

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