



TIPS FOR PRACTITIONERS

- Inform parents about curricular goals and assessments for students in each subject at each grade level and suggest ways to complement the curriculum in the home environment.
- Inform parents of homework expectations and policies, including information about how to best assist students with assignments.
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about differences in how students learn (learning styles, multiple intelligences, etc.) and prepare for school (studying, motivation, test preparation, etc.).
- Involve family members in setting goals for students, making course selections, determining IEP goals, and planning for transition to postsecondary education, careers, and the workplace.
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn how they can effectively support their student's education.
- Demonstrate ways to reinforce behaviors at home that enhance learning, such as time management, organizational skills, planning, and limited television viewing and computer use.
- Encourage parents to model good reading habits, participate in informal educational activities in the home and community, and promote lifelong learning.
- Engage parents in discussion and pay attention to the issues they bring up.
- Invite parents to share goals for their child; they are members of the planning team.
- Share expertise and resources with parents, offering any information that may be beneficial such as brochures or Web sites on vocational rehabilitation services.
- Share the relevance of the curriculum to the student's goals. This may be particularly important in regard to self-determination, a concept parents may not be familiar with and view as a bit intimidating.
- State expectations early and regularly. Parents can be supportive only when they understand exactly what is expected of their child.
- Appreciate parents' support and follow-through at home. Be specific about the positive impact their efforts are having on their child's progress in school.