

# Preparing Your Student for Middle School Success!

Congratulations on your child's transition to middle school. This important milestone marks a new chapter in their educational journey. To ensure a smooth transition and promote success, here are six essential tips for parents of special education students!



## 1. Encourage Open Communication:

- Maintain regular communication with teachers, support staff, and administrators to stay informed about your child's progress and any challenges they may encounter.
- Attend orientations, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, activities at school.
- Attend IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings to discuss your child's specific needs and goals. Request a learning specialist from Middle School to attend the last IEP meeting of Elementary school.

## 2. Learn About Middle School:

- Familiarize yourself with the middle school's layout and schedule to help your child navigate the new environment more confidently.
- Introduce your child to key locations, such as classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria, and the school office. As for a tour of the school at the open house.
- Learn about the curriculum and think about what accommodations and modifications might look like for your child.

## 3. Empower Self-Advocacy:

- Encourage your child to speak up for themselves when possible. Teach them to express their needs, ask for help, and communicate their preferences to teachers and peers.
- Give them tools that will help them advocate for themselves, such as using a communication aid, keeping a schedule, or using a designated buddy system.

#### 4. Develop Organizational Skills:

- Help your child establish a routine for organizing assignments, materials, and study schedules using a planner or a calendar.
- Use visual aids, color-coding, or digital tools to create a personalized organizational system.

#### 5. Build Social and Emotional Support:

- Promote opportunities for your child to engage with peers and make new friends.
- Encourage participation in afterschool activities or clubs that interest your child.

#### 6. Monitor and Celebrate Progress:

- Keep track of your child's academic and emotional progress throughout the year and keep progress notes.
- Celebrate achievements, both big and small, to boost their confidence and motivation.

Remember: every child is unique, and the transition to middle school may present it's own set of challenges and triumphs. By offering support, encouraging communication, and empowering self-advocacy, you can help your special education student thrive in their new middle school environment. Together, we can make this transition a successful and enriching experience! For additional resources and support, please reach out to us!

