

Say It With Confidence: A Parent's Guide to Giving Effective IEP Feedback

Empower your voice. Advocate with clarity.





Founder of IEP Coaching with FlorDeAmelia, I've helped dozens of parents go from feeling unheard and uncertain to being seen, respected, and effective partners in their child's education.

As a parent and coach, I know what it's like to feel dismissed or confused during IEP meetings. That's why I created a personalized, practical coaching program to teach parents the skills that schools listen to. This free guide is just a glimpse of what's possible when you step into your power.



Welcome, Empowered Parent!

Whether you're new to the IEP process or a seasoned advocate for your child, knowing how to give feedback that actually makes a difference is the key to helping your child thrive.

This guide was created just for YOU — the dedicated parent who wants to confidently collaborate with your child's IEP team, even when the system feels overwhelming.

Why Your Voice Matters

Your voice matters—and not just in theory. Legally and practically, you are a vital part of your child's IEP team. But if you've ever felt uncertain about how to give feedback or what to say during meetings, you're not alone.

Here's the truth:

You don't need to be a special education expert to participate fully and effectively. What you do need is preparation, clarity, and confidence.

This guide will help you move from overwhelmed to empowered—transforming emotions into effective advocacy that builds collaboration, not conflict. Let's help your child get the support they deserve—with your voice leading the way.



The E.A.S.E. Method for Giving IEP Feedback

Use this 4-step framework whenever you're reviewing an IEP draft, progress report, or evaluation. It helps keep your feedback structured, respectful, and effective.

Step	What It Stands For	What It Looks Like
E	Evidence	"Based on the last 3 progress reports, I've noticed that he's still struggling with transitions between activities."
A	Alignment	"This goal doesn't seem aligned with the strengths listed in the Present Levels section."
S	Support	"What support or strategies will be in place to help my child reach this goal?"
E	Empathy	"I appreciate all the effort going into this plan. I just want to be sure we're setting my child up for success."

Why It Works:

This structure keeps your message clear and constructive. Instead of guessing or getting emotional, you're grounding your voice in facts and collaboration.

Fill-in-the-Blank Templates

Not sure how to start your feedback? Let these simple prompts guide you.

Use these sentence starters during IEP meetings, emails, or while reviewing drafts. They help you express concerns, ask for clarity, or highlight strengths—without sounding confrontational.

Template #1: Goal Feedback

"I noticed that **[specific goal]** doesn't reflect **[your observation or data]**. Based on **[evidence]**, I suggest we consider **[your recommendation]**. I want to be sure we're setting a goal that's realistic and challenging, with the right support to succeed."

Template #2: Evaluation or Placement Feedback

"Thank you for the evaluation results. I'd like to understand more about how **[placement decision]** was determined. Is there additional data we can consider, especially in light of **[specific concern or strength]**?"

Template #3: Progress or Lack of Growth

"I'm concerned that progress on **[goal]** has stalled. Based on **[data]**, can we revisit the supports or strategies being used to help my child progress in this area?"

Advocacy Language + Feedback Journal

Advocate Without Confrontation
Use these phrases to stay calm, clear, and curious:

- “Can you help me understand how this decision was made?”
- “I’m concerned this doesn’t reflect what we’re seeing at home—can we talk through it together?”
- “What data supports this change?”
- “I’d like to work together to make sure we’re all seeing the full picture.”
- “How will we know this support is working?”



Bonus: IEP Feedback Journal Page (Printable)

Use this page to prepare before meetings or emails.

What I want to say:

The evidence I have:

How I want to say it:

What worked / what I learned:

You've Got This — and We've Got You

Giving feedback is not about being “pushy.” It’s about being purposeful. And now that you have a guide, you can show up prepared, informed, and ready to speak with confidence.



You are your child's best advocate. Let's make sure your voice is heard.





Flor De Amelia Hoffman

You're now holding a powerful tool—a checklist that can transform how you approach your child's IEP goals. But like any tool, its true value comes from how you use it.

You could stop here and feel a bit more prepared... or you could take the next step and truly learn how to give feedback that's clear, confident, and respected. Imagine walking into the next meeting knowing what to say—and why.

This guide is just your starting point.

If you're ready to go further, I invite you to join my next IEP Coaching Session. We'll take what you've learned here and apply it to your real-life IEP concerns, using practical strategies and real examples.

Let's unlock your full advocacy power—together.

Join the next IEP Coaching Session with FlorDeAmelia.

JOIN THE CLASS NOW