



# 5 Steps to Navigate an IEP *with hope*

Remember, God is in control. Do not be fooled into believing that the emotionless administrator at the head of the table is in control. God establishes kings and kingdoms. (Daniel 2:21) Does he not also establish principals and vice principals?

Hold on to hope. This is not the end. This is not permanent. The sinner on the cross was saved and lives in heaven. (Luke 1:37 and 23:39-43) God is always at work. He is not finished.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you advocate for your child. You may not know what you will say when you step into that conference room and that's ok. The Holy Spirit can give you the right words in the right moment. You need only to ask. (John 16:13)

Take a humble approach. Be teachable. (Prov 11:2; Phil 2:3-4) These are professionals who can help your child in many areas. They are trained to work with your child's unique characteristics. They know helpful things that you don't know yet. Invite them in to your family to not only help your child, but to teach you how to help your child as well.

Then go the other way. Be an educator who specializes in your child. (Col 3:23; Matt 7:12) Be open with what you know about your child, both good and bad. Help the school personnel to see your child as you see him/her. Tell stories that show how lovable he/she is, about his/her special talents, or about his/her special interests to give them a fuller picture of your child, not just what they see in the classroom. You want to establish a wonderful, respectful relationship with these people. You want to create a team, with everyone bringing their best for your child's success.