

Making School Work

A Toolbox for Parents

Based on the book

*No Parent Left Behind:
Navigating the Special
Education Universe*

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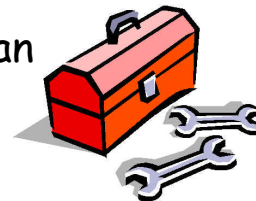


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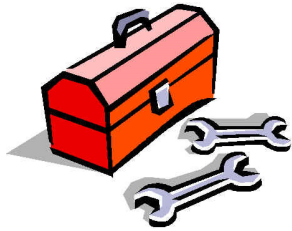
You Are the Expert on Your Child

"Parents have become so convinced
that educators know what is best
for children that they forget that
they are the experts."

Marion Wright Edelman



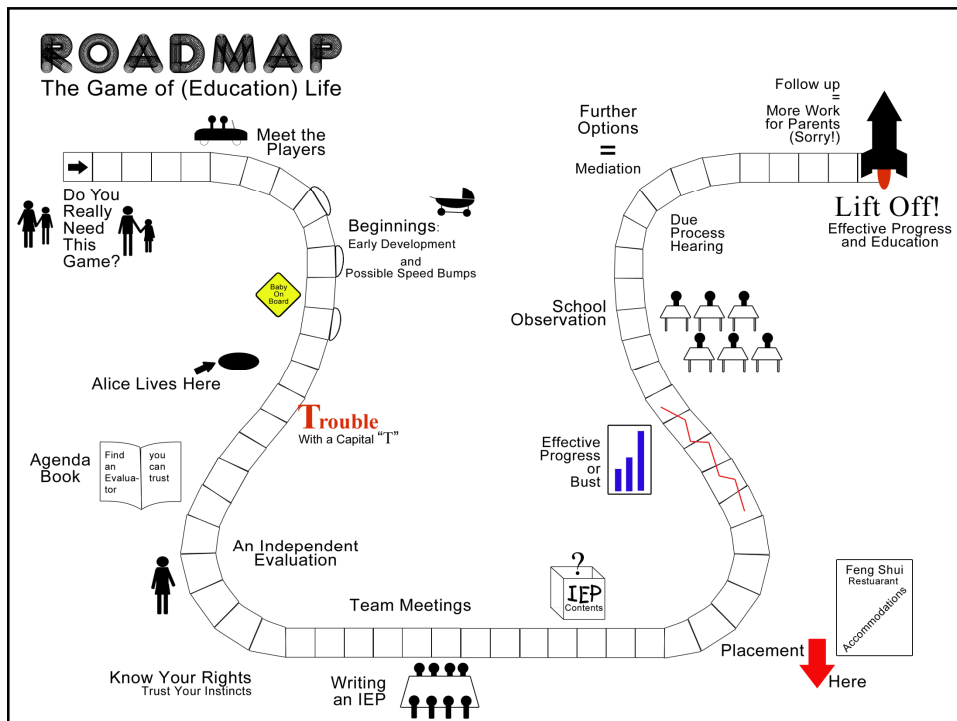
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Making School Work

Agenda

- Session 1 - Speedbumps on the Road to Success: When to Watch, When to Worry
- Session 2 - Understanding Independent Evaluations
- Session 3 - 7 Habits Of Highly Effective Special Needs Families
- Session 4 - Effective Progress



What Would Parents Like to Know?

- Ways to be more organized
- Feel better about what they do for their child
- Feel confident about providing the right kinds of help
- How to make time for themselves and other children



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More Work

- Special needs children often work more slowly
- More energy used during school day
- Homework may require skills that are still developing
- May come home feeling sad, angry, or frustrated



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More Work

- May have been lonely during the day
- May be distractible or over-active
- May be less flexible or more moody
- May not yet work independently
- May have physical or sensory difficulties



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What Are Parents' Biggest Concerns For Their Children?

- Developing grade level skills
- Homework
- Social and life skills
- Independence
- Feel good about themselves
- Happy



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**Never Do Something For
Your Child That He Can Do
For Himself**



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Seven Habits of Highly Effective Special Needs Families

1. Every family needs a plan
2. You can't get water from an empty well
3. Nothing gets better without practice



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Seven Habits of Highly Effective Special Needs Families

4. Nurture a balanced life
5. Be direct and consistent in your communications
6. Begin with the end in mind
7. Celebrate every day



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Habit #1: Every Family Needs a Plan

- Visible
- Colorful
- Fun
- Used by the whole family



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Habit #1: Every Family Needs a Plan

Things We Are Working On				
Name	Goals / Skills	How Do I Do It?	How Often?	Done <input type="checkbox"/>

Habit #2: You Can't Get Water From An Empty Well

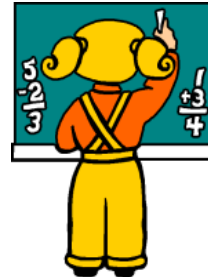
- Trust your instincts
- Put on your own oxygen mask first
- Sharpen the saw
- Find a group who won't mind listening



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Habit #3: Nothing Gets Better Without Practice

- You have to work with the skills you have
- Persistence
- Concrete goals
- White board
- Talk about goals
- Practice every week



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Habit #4: Nurture A Balanced Life

- All aspects of life are important
- Every child needs to know he does some things really well
- Remind your child of his strengths
- Keep a balance in life for each family member



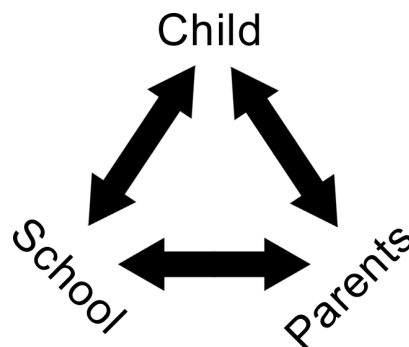
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Habit #5: Be Direct And Consistent In Communications

- Communication is the key to solutions
- Keep calm and ask questions
- Use the triangle of communication
- Think win-win as long as you can
- Document the dialogs



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- What is expected?
- What is working / not working?
- Ideas for making the situation better

Habit #6: Begin With The End In Mind



- Focus
- Clarify your goals
- Pace yourself

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Habit #7: Celebrate Every Day

- Notice something good every day
- Small daily successes are best
- Children and teens will share things that went well
- Live in the moment



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How Do Families Put These 7 Habits Into Practice?

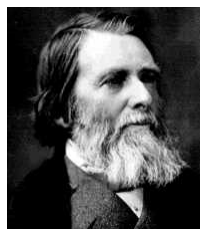
- Small steps
- Post the list of habits
- Ask for help



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"In order that people may be happy in their work, 3 things are necessary:

- They must be fit for it
- They must not do too much of it
- They must have a sense of success in it"



John Ruskin

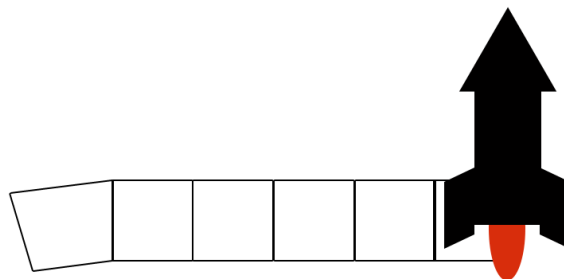
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What's The Payoff?

- Less stress
- More success
- Empowering you and your children



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Lift Off!
Effective Progress
and Education

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