

# "IEPs and School Placement: Exploring Perspectives Empowers the Parent" – a presentation for all school-age families

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Don't Sweat the Small Stuff . . . But an IEP Really Isn't Small Stuff

IEP = Individualized Education Plan

IEP = Involved Educated Parent (Person)

Guest Blog by Katie Busch, St. Louis, MO



An IEP is HUGE! At least to me it is. I have a hunch that those of you interested in the IEP Panel Presentation **"IEPs and School Placement: Exploring Perspectives Empowers the Parent"** agree with me, and have probably sweated an IEP or two.

Let me start this blog with telling you who I am. I am a one-on-one para-educator for a high schooler who has Rett syndrome. I am a home health aide and caregiver for a teenager who has Rett syndrome. And I am an "adopted" member of a family who has a child with Rett syndrome. I am "Ellie's one and only" to quote her mom, and have been for 7 years. I spend about 50-60 hours a week with "my girl" and "my family". To say that I'm involved with Ellie's

IEP is an understatement. I spend at least 35 hours a week living Ellie's IEP with her.

## **IT'S HUGE!**

The IEP dictates our life at the school, and will influence Ellie's life after high school. But . . . you probably already know how HUGE an IEP is. So, why should you spend your extremely precious and limited time listening to this presentation? Because it's powerful!

More importantly, listen carefully in order to not sweat an IEP as much. One should make themselves an Involved Educated Parent (or Person). This panel session has information that is empowering for those who support a child with an IEP. I get to see the different sides of an IEP and IEP team, and the approaches that

this panel discusses are capable of making a difference in your IEP. I know this as a fact! I have seen them in action! "My girl" is a panel member's daughter and I have participated in her IEPs for years. I have watched what this panel is saying deliver results! I promise you won't regret spending your time on this presentation.

- [Podcast](#)
- Slides to read while listening to Podcast: [IEPs and School Placement: Exploring Perspectives Empowers the Parent](#)

*Panelists:*

*Sarika U. Peters, Ph.D., Psychiatrist, Vanderbilt University*

*Valerie Owen, Ph.D., Special Education Professor*

*Susan Lee, M.A., Special Educator and Parent*

*Mickie McCool, Advocate and Parent*



“True happiness comes not when we get rid of all of our problems, but when we change our relationship to them, when we see our problems as a potential source of awakening, opportunities to practice, and to learn.” -  
Richard Carlson