

“The ability to ask the right question is the first step in finding the right answer.” Unknown

Targeted Questions for Parents

The “who, what, when, where, why and how” (“5 W’s and 1 H”) have long been used as strategy to organize thoughts and get information. This approach can be used effectively by parents to form targeted questions for the IEP team about their child’s program.

- **What** service or intervention is being recommended?
- **Why** is the service or intervention needed or being recommended?
- **What** is the goal? / **What** will it “look like”?
- **Who** will provide the service or intervention?
- **When** will the service or intervention be provided?
- **Where/How** will the service or intervention be provided?
- **How** will I know it is effective?

When parents ask these questions, it gives the IEP team the opportunity to examine the services or interventions that are being recommended and think about all aspects of what is being recommended and whether the outcome has a chance of being effective.

Asking these questions also gives parents the opportunity to be contributing members of the team’s decision process and to assure them that they understand the team’s plans for their child’s education program.

