

[How to Control the focus at your child's PPT](#)

Have you ever felt invisible at your child's PPT? Do you leave your school with more Questions than answers? Then this article is for you!

Write your questions down before the meeting, as these meetings move fast, and you may not have a chance to ask unless you are prepared to “jump right into a conversation”. **Preparing for the meeting is key!** First identify where you feel your child is behind. Is it in phonics (the sounds letters make), or reading comprehension? Then you know what to focus on in the meeting. Also bring past report cards where areas were marked “needs improvement” by your child's' teacher. You have the right to a comprehensive evaluation at any time. How do you know what tests to ask your school to give? If the problem area seems to be in phonemic awareness, you can do a Google Search: “Tests for Phonemic Sounds” or “diagnostic assessments for phonics”, and get a list of tests used. My personal favorite is the **Test of Phonemic Awareness. (TAPS)** If the school gives your child a test that measures expressive language, and that is not your child's deficit area, then you are going nowhere fast! You must target the specific area you are concerned about!

Do you see what I mean about narrowing down the area in question? Write down the names of these tests, and ask if they are going to measure the area that your child is struggling in? Your school is obligated under 34CFR 300§111 “Child Find” to test any area where a suspected disability exists. By writing your questions down, identifying where you feel your child is weak, and doing just a bit of research **you will enter the room with a new feeling of confidence. Doing your homework is key!** Your school will note your new enlightened demeanor too, and your school will know that you are serious!

Have you heard about **Scientifically Researched Based Instruction SRBI**? This ensures that the schools use high quality curriculum in the general education setting too. It also incorporates universal common assessments used to assess students' grade level progress.

Progress monitoring is also a key component to assess the effectiveness of interventions used to assist struggling learners. **Get the name of the SRBI program** being used and the level your child is on. Once you have the level (baseline) established, in your next meeting ask for the level again, and you will see if your child is making appropriate progress! **It feels better when you are the one asking the questions!**

At the end of the meeting, ask for someone to read the minutes aloud. I can't tell you how many times I have received my follow-up written documentation regarding the meeting, and wondered if we were at the same meeting. I often think it was a “creative writing assignment”; instead of actual minutes about the meeting. As the minutes are being read back, look at your list of questions you brought into the meeting, and make sure all of your concerns were addressed. You will receive this package via the mail within 5 working days. **Read this package when it comes, if there is anything in there that you feel is an inaccurate call your school immediately, and request another PPT! Don't let your child fall through the cracks. Take control, and Empower Yourself with Knowledge.**



Respectfully,

Amy Eisner, MA

www.help4specialeducation.com

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