

Become the expert on your child. The more time spent researching and learning about your child's disability the more effective you will be.

Step back from your emotions. It's not always personal against you or your child. You may not always agree with the IEP team.

Be respectful and expect it in return!!!

## **IF IT'S NOT IN WRITING, IT NEVER HAPPENED!!!!**

If you decide to file a complaint, remember that it is a data-driven process. You have to provide the data, so be organized and prepared.

### **DO:**

- 1) Prepare for Meetings
- 2) Prioritize Your Child's Needs
- 3) Build Good Relationships
- 4) Document Issues and Concerns
- 5) Use Advocacy Strategies
- 6) Pick Your Battles

### **Don't:**

- 1) Complain Loudly & Often
- 2) Assume the Worst
- 3) Have a Closed Mind
- 4) Stint on Experts
- 5) Take it Personally