



# EDUCATION COUNSELING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Transitioning to middle school can be a significant change for any child, especially for those with learning differences. Here's a checklist to help navigate this transition.

## 1 EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

- Review and update IEP/504 Plan: Ensure the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan is current and reflects your child's needs.
- Conduct new assessments: If necessary, arrange for updated evaluations to address any changes in your child's learning needs.

## 2 SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- Schedule meetings with the principal, special education coordinator, and teachers to discuss your child's needs and accommodations.
- Provide documentation: Share updated IEPs, 504 Plans, and any other relevant documents with the school.

## 3 CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

- Tour the school and visit classrooms with your child to understand the environment and layout.
- Discuss accommodations: Ensure teachers are aware of and prepared to implement necessary accommodations, such as extended time on tests, note-taking assistance, and preferential seating.

## 4 SUPPORT SERVICES

- Identify available resources: Learn about the support services offered by the school, such as tutoring, counseling, and special education programs.
- Coordinate with external providers: Ensure communication between school staff and any external therapists or tutors your child may be working with.

## 5 SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL PREPARATION

- Encourage participation in extracurricular activities to help your child build social connections.

- Talk to your child about the changes they will experience in middle school and address any concerns they may have.

## 6 HEALTH & SAFETY

- Ensure the school has up-to-date medical records, including information about medications, allergies, and emergency contacts.
- Review the school's emergency procedures and ensure your child understands them.

## 7 ROUTINE & STRUCTURE

- Create a consistent daily routine to help your child adjust to the new school schedule.
- Teach your child organizational skills, such as using a planner, keeping track of assignments, and managing their time effectively.

## 8 ADVOCACY & SUPPORT KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Join groups to connect with other parents of children with learning disabilities for support and advocacy.
- Keep up-to-date with educational policies and resources that may affect your child's education.

## 9 POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- Recognize and celebrate your child's progress and achievements, no matter how small.
- Provide positive reinforcement to boost your child's confidence and self-esteem.

## 10 ONGOING SUPPORT

- Schedule regular meetings with teachers and support staff to monitor your child's progress.
- Adjust plans as needed: Be flexible and willing to adjust plans and strategies based on your child's evolving needs.

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