

HOW AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT CAN HELP YOUR CHILD REACH HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL

A child with learning differences faces many frustrating challenges and pressures. The resulting feelings of isolation and despair may keep a child from reaching his or her full potential. Finding a school or program that caters to your child's individual needs can lead to increased self-confidence and a positive attitude toward the future. An independent educational consultant can help find the placement that will focus on the child's personal strengths, and teach the child how to use those strengths to meet his or her individual challenges.

With the wide range of options available to students with learning differences, proper research is needed before choosing an educational program. Legislation requires accommodations for students with learning differences. Some schools and colleges offer a minimal level of support through general resources such as tutorial writing and math centers. Others provide the services of a specialist who arranges for individualized support services. Additionally, there are schools and colleges that are comprised exclusively of students with learning differences, and offer a wide array of services.

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION (IECA)

IECA was founded in 1976 as a non-profit, professional association of established educational consultants. Membership in the Association requires an appropriate master's degree or comparable training, a minimum of three years experience in the profession, extensive campus visits, and professional references, as well as meeting IECA's professional standards and subscribing to its Principles of Good Practice. IECA helps members update knowledge and maintain skills through meetings, workshops, training programs, and information exchange with colleges, schools, programs, and other consultants.

When a family chooses an independent educational consultant who is a member of IECA, they are assured that the consultant is experienced, highly trained, and committed to honest and ethical practices.



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Excellence in Educational Planning

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MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

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AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT CAN HELP FIND THE SCHOOL OR PROGRAM THAT WILL TAILOR THEIR TEACHING STYLE TO YOUR CHILD'S UNIQUE NEEDS

An independent educational consultant gets to know you and your child to best determine and meet your needs. The assessment process entails more than just the gathering of test scores. Independent educational consultants spend hours

meeting with both the student and the family in order to gain a better understanding

of the student's background and general interests. A consultant combines the knowledge gained through personal interviews with information from school transcripts, teacher comments, and prior testing to form a complete picture of the student. This individualized approach is crucial to finding the most suitable educational setting.

An independent educational consultant has extensive knowledge of schools and their available support services. Educational consultants visit and evaluate hundreds of schools and programs each year: their knowledge of each school's profile, including student-teacher ratio, teacher credentials, availability of learning aids like computers and tape recorders,

and various characteristics of the student body, provides you with firsthand information about your options. Consultants may also recommend appropriate academic and vocational alternatives.

"An independent educational consultant can help find the placement that will focus on the child's personal strengths to meet their individual challenges."

An independent educational consultant may recommend specialized tests. To accurately identify your child's individual needs, a consultant may suggest further testing. Some consultants provide psycho-educational testing services in their office. Educational consultants work as a team with psychologists and other counseling professionals to understand your child's individual learning style. A thorough and objective assessment provides the consultant with the information necessary to help each student and family formulate a customized educational plan.

An independent educational consultant encourages your child's independence. Successful independence relies upon each student's ability to identify a specific challenge, develop appropriate compensation strategies, and advocate for him or herself. A critical part of each decision is knowing when to collaborate with a parent or friend, consult with a mentor or follow-through independently. Consultants support students as they seek a variety of opportunities to pursue their interests.

An independent educational consultant is skilled at matching your child's individual academic profile to a school or program that addresses his or her unique learning style. The consultant listens to your special concerns, thoroughly investigates the options, and continues to monitor your child's progress to ensure that your child thrives in an academically and socially appropriate learning environment.

