

Christine's Chronicles: Counting down the days until kindergarten

Christine updates us on a recent IEP team meeting and talks about Luke's transition from preschool to kindergarten.



Christine and Luke

So most everything is falling into place for Luke's upcoming transition to kindergarten. We had a meeting with his current IEP team and his future IEP team where we reviewed the results of his evaluations, wrote a new IEP, and made some transition specific goals and tasks. To be honest, the meeting was a bit overwhelming for me. Even though we had two hours, it still felt like we were rushed.

But on the plus side, I was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to go for inclusion. In fact, I didn't even have to push for it. It ended up being me to raise the concerns about how inclusion might be overwhelming for Luke. And the principal, special ed teacher, and general ed teacher quickly assured me that they had a transition process into the general curriculum that would be tailored for Luke. They would start off slowly gradually increasing his time in the regular kindergarten. He would have an aid with him at all times and he could return to the special ed classroom at any point if it was too much. That process could take a month, or it could take all year. They would go at Luke's pace.

So that part of the meeting went well. It didn't go quite as smoothly when we discussed ideas on the overall transition from preschool to kindergarten. But thanks to being familiar with the content in CONNECT's Module 2: Transition, I knew what I was asking for was not only reasonable, but best practice. So I held my ground and we were able to compromise and agree on some goals. Luke would not be allowed to bring any toys or stuffed animals from home, but he could bring some of his favorite books. I was also concerned that even though we had the evaluations, we just hadn't shared

enough personal information about Luke. The visit of Luke's new teacher to his preschool ended up being a scheduling challenge, so I said I would fill out a transition profile and get input from his current teachers and therapists. And luckily I knew just where to get a transition profile. Thank you CONNECT!

Next steps are to have Luke visit the classroom. I've also got a few training sessions scheduled to teach the new staff how to use Luke's communication device. There's still a lot to do, but I feel much more comfortable now that we have a plan in place.

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