

A PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
COALITION  
FOR  
CITIZENS  
WITH  
DISABILITIES  
MISSISSIPPI  
PARENT  
TRAINING  
AND  
INFORMATION  
CENTER

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## Empowering Parents...Improving Outcomes MS Gulf Coast Regional Parent Conference

For parents and families of children with disABILITIES

# Saturday May 8, 2010

## Ocean Springs, MS St. Paul United Methodist Church

This event is co-sponsored by the  
Mississippi Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education

**This conference will also  
be held in the  
Mississippi Delta Region  
in September 2010!**

For registration and  
conference details you can:

- visit our website at  
[www.mspti.org](http://www.mspti.org)
- call our office at  
1-800-721-7255
- Email [info@mspti.org](mailto:info@mspti.org)



**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**ction words

**R**ealistic

**T**ime limited

# SMART IEP's Start Here!

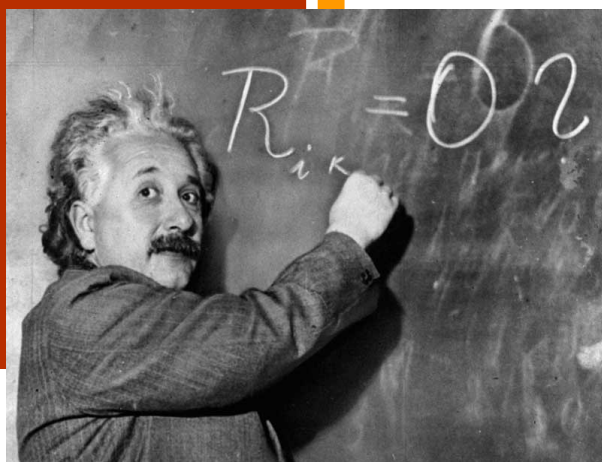
The term SMART is used to help parents understand what an IEP should look like and how goals and objectives should be portrayed.

Many parents who contact our office are unsure about how to write successful goals and objectives for children with disabilities. They also report feeling anxious and insecure about raising these concerns in IEP meetings. They may realize that their child's IEP is not appropriate but don't know quite how to resolve this problem.

Parents, as an equal partner of the IEP team, have the right to have their questions answered and their concerns addressed by educators. If you have questions or concerns about your child's IEP goals, the MS PTI staff is here to help.

Remember...

- Goals represent what you and the other IEP team members think your child will be able to accomplish in a school year.
- Annual goals must be written in measurable terms, should be time-specific, realistic for your child, and developed based on your child's present levels of performance.



- The goals must relate directly to the areas of need indicated by the child's evaluation and the present levels of performance.
- The type of goals the team writes will determine who will carry them out– the special education teacher, the general education teacher, or the speech language pathologist, physical therapist, etc.

This article was adapted from resources found at Wright's Law  
[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

# “A goal properly set is halfway reached.”

-Abraham Lincoln

## • **Specific**

SMART IEPs have specific goals and objectives. Specific goals target areas of academic achievement and functional performance. They include clear descriptions of the knowledge and skills that will be taught and how the child's progress will be measured.

## • **Measurable**

Goals and objectives in a SMART IEP are measurable. Measurable means it can be counted or observed. When a goal is measurable parents and teachers can see how much progress the child has made since the performance was last measured. With measurable goals you will know when the goal has been mastered.

## • **Action Words**

IEP goals include three components that must be stated in measurable terms:

- (a) direction of behavior (increase, decrease, maintain)
- (b) area of need (reading, writing, social skills, transition, communication)
- (c) level of attainment (to age level, without assistance)

Smart IEPs use action words like: “The child will be able to...”

## • **Realistic and Relevant**

Realistic, relevant goals and objectives address a child's unique needs that result from the disability. SMART IEP goals are not based on district curricula, state or district tests, or other external standards.

## • **Time Limited**

What does your child need to know and be able to do after one school year? What is the starting point for each of the child's needs? With time limited goals and objectives parents are able to monitor progress at regular intervals.



## MSPTI COLLABORATES TO BRING MISSISSIPPI SPECIFIC RESOURCES TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center is collaborating with The Mississippi Center for Justice and The Mississippi Youth Justice Project to produce a series of parent friendly manuals related to specific special education topics.

Having identified a need for Mississippi specific resources that are parent friendly, the three organizations have teamed up with volunteer student attorneys from the North Western Law School to produce a set of ten manuals that will be available for parents and families to download from the MSPTI website as well as receive printed versions of the manuals upon request.

The North Western law students traveled to Mississippi to present a series of trainings for parents in Jackson, Biloxi, and Indianola with the help of the three organizations involved. During their visit the students also had a chance to attend a roundtable discussion with the three organizations as well as representatives from Disability Rights Mississippi and Parents United Together. The discussion focused on current special education issues in Mississippi.



We would like to thank the law students for their dedication and hard work, as well as all partners involved in this project.

Your help and interest in improving outcomes for students with disabilities in Mississippi makes us proud to work with each of you!

*Thank You*

## 2nd Annual Building Partnerships Conference A Success!

The 2nd Annual Building Partnerships Conference kicked off in Jackson, MS at the Jackson Convention Center. The two day event sponsored by the MS Parent Training and Information Center, The MS Department of Education's Office of Special Education and the MS Center for Education Innovation hosted nearly 350 participants this year. Participants included parents, professionals and administrators from across the state.

This year's keynote speakers included disability rights advocate, Kathie Snow from Disability Is Natural as well as Kathy Chase-Young, a Mississippi author and teacher. Attendees were also able to attend an address from the new State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tom Burnham.

A diverse group of dancers, including dancers with disabilities from Belhaven University and Very Special Arts performed an eclectic mix of dance routines as an added entertainment piece this year.

Parents and professionals attended workshops on topics from Inclusive Education to Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions. Planning for next year's Building Partnerships Conference are underway now!





The Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center is here to educate you about the rights of your child under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the rights you have as a parent of a child receiving or needing Special Education services.

The following is a list of training topics available by presentation or as online trainings...

**These trainings have been approved for Early Intervention Units:**

- **3R's; Rights, Responsibilities and Recordkeeping**
- **Individualized Education Programs (IEP's)**
- **Transition from Early Intervention to School**

**Other topics include:**

- **Autism**
- **Advocacy Skills and Communication**
- **Conflict Resolution**



**When Parents Learn,  
Children Succeed!**



**May 14-16, 2010**

The purpose of Sea & Sun Camp is to provide children with visual impairments, ages 5-15 the opportunity to interact with their peers who have visual impairments through socialization and recreational activities.

The Lions of Mississippi approved the camp as a state project at the State Convention held in Hattiesburg, MS in May 1999. The camp was begun by the Biloxi Lions Club in 1997 at the Sea Shore United Methodist Center before moving to Camp Wilkes in 2006.

The Sea and Sun Camp offers three days of fun-filled activities including: shrimping excursions, sports and games, swimming, field trips, boating, dancing and luaus, beach play, museum tours, island adventures and more. These experiences offer campers an environment that offers fun, positive recreational activities for the body and mind as well as memories that will last a lifetime.

Counselors are dedicated, mature volunteers. They include Lions Club members, nurses, and graduate students from the visual impairment program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. They each have a deep commitment to ensuring that all campers have a safe and exciting weekend.

Children ages 5 to 15 years old are eligible to participate. All campers must meet the Mississippi State Department of Education's requirements to receive services for visual impairments.

For More Information or Application Contact:

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[www.mspti.org](http://www.mspti.org)

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Student Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Child/Student Disability \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which applies: ☐ Parent ☐ Student ☐ Professional

**\*\* Professionals, please submit a \$10.00 subscription fee (payable to MS PTI)**

Return this form to: Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center, 2 Old River Place, Suite A, Jackson, MS 39202; phone 601-969-0601 or 800-721-7255

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