



The Hill School of Wilmington

Advocacy Resources

Parents

- Pursue strategies to support your child with homework and studying. Seek out available tips for being prepared for school meetings.
 - Online articles and magazines: IDA, Growing Readers E-Newsletter, etc.
- Know your rights.
 - Read the “Handbook on Parents' Rights - Exceptional Children”
<http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/ecparenthandbook.pdf>
- Be your child’s greatest advocate. You know your child better than anyone.
 - Talk to your child’s educators regarding any concerns about his/her learning struggles.
 - Talk to your child’s school principal if you are unable to resolve your concerns with your child’s teachers.
 - Talk with your child’s school district’s EC director if you are unable to resolve your concerns with your child’s teachers and school principal.
- Join a parent support group or speak to an area professional
 - PSLA of ILM – Parents of Students with Learning Abilities
<https://www.facebook.com/PSLAofILM>
 - Wilmington Area CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders)
<http://wilmingtonchadd.org/>
 - Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center (ECAC)
Karen Laughlin (local parent educator with many resources)
(910) 520-6918, (800) 782-2094
klaughlin@ecacmail.org
<http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/> (main web page)
<http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/parent-training-info-center/iep-partners/> (Having someone join parents at an IEP meeting)
 - ACES (Advisory Council for Exceptional Students)
<https://sites.google.com/a/nhcs.net/aces/>

- Don't give up. If you suspect that your child has learning difficulties that are inhibiting his/her ability to be successful, keep sharing this information with those who are working with your child and those who will support you in working with your child.
- Keep advocating. Attend and participate in school meetings involving your child. If your child has an educational plan and is failing, request a meeting to update or modify the plan.
- Celebrate the uniqueness of your child. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Encourage your child to continue to pursue (non-academic) activities in which he/she experiences success.

Suggested Reading for Parents

Spark, John J. Ratey

Overcoming Dyslexia: A New and Complete Science-Based Program for Reading Problems at Any Level Sally Shaywitz, M.D.

Smart Kids with School Problems: Things to Know and Ways to Help Priscilla Vail

Students

- Let your parents know that you are struggling and request their help with a plan for success. Sometimes a quiet place to work or someone to study with can help to make the work less difficult.
- Talk to teachers about receiving extra help or strategies to pass tests, complete homework, or take class notes. Let them know what you are trying to do to be successful and share what you think might be helpful.
- Talk to fellow students about their strategies for success in a specific class. You may want to try some of their tactics.
- Don't give up. Believe in your ability to be successful. People learn differently and they learn at different rates, but everyone can learn. Experiencing difficulty learning doesn't mean you aren't smart. There are many ways to be smart. There are many famous, intelligent people who also had difficult time learning in school. They learned differently, and they have amazing talents!
- Follow your dreams. Think about what you are really good at, and work toward what you need to do to make your dreams come true.

Suggested Reading for Students

A Walk in the Rain with the Brain Hallowell

Last to Finish: A Story about the Smartest Boy in Math Class Esham

If You're So Smart, How Come You Can't Spell Mississippi? Esham

Mrs. Gorski, I Think I Have the Wiggle Fidgets Esham

Dyslexia Wonders Smith

It's Called Dyslexia Moore-Mallinos

Looking For Heroes Colvin