

What are Parent Concerns and Vision Statements?

There are two places on the IEP where the team wants to hear your voice and no one else's. This is on the ***Parent Concerns*** and the ***Vision Statement***. These are very important parts of the IEP and you should make sure to express yourself here.

Parent Concerns are a list of things you think your child's teachers should be aware of. This could be anything from your son's picky eating habits to your daughter's fear of loud noises, but try to relate these concerns to how your child will learn and grow in school.

This is also a very good place to outline things that you want to see in your child's program, such as a one-to-one aide at meal time, small class sizes, high teacher-to-student ratio, extra time, or the incorporation of a multi-sensory teaching approach. Think about what the ideal class environment would be for your child and list those things here.

Another way to think about Parent Concerns is in terms of goals. Your child's teachers will most likely look through your concerns and formulate some goals from them. So, for example, you may say that you are concerned that your child isn't playing effectively with other children his age. Your child's teacher may then write a social skills goal relating to interacting with other children and learning age-appropriate play skills.

The Vision Statement is more of a long-term goal for your child. You're usually asked to think about where you would want to see your child in three to five year's time.

This can be a very good place to write about the expanded core curriculum. Think about how your child is faring with these expanded core elements and where you would like to see them receiving the most instruction. Would you like

to see your child with better daily living skills, better functional language, or maybe having more access to technology? Put these goals in your Vision Statement so the IEP team knows what you want for your child.