

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to my husband Ken who is a genius in many ways. In any discussion on a difficult subject, from education to global issues, in a few sentences he sums up the real issues in what is clearly a well thought out, doable solution. Much of the wisdom contained in these pages is his.

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To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# PREFACE

If your IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting is tomorrow, you can start with **Chapter 15 IEP-911**. But after you make it through the meeting, please go back and read all the information you need to help your child have a successful school experience.

You are probably not reading this workbook if your child was born with a severe handicap. Your child started receiving services before starting school.

You are probably reading this workbook because your child started school then started to struggle at some point; I call this the Trigger Point.

Something has moved you to action, such as

1. Child can't read in second or third grade
2. Child can't tell time, count money, add.
3. Child has severe behavior problems in school
4. Child suddenly got one or more failing grades
5. You are anxious every fall when grade reports start coming in
6. Teacher or school tells you there is some problem
7. You think there's some problem with school for your child, but you don't know why
8. You are confused, frustrated, angry, overwhelmed and want a solution
9. Someone told you that you need an "IEP"
10. Someone told you to switch schools, switch teachers, home school, etc.

This workbook contains the tools you need to write your own "Do it Yourself for Smart People" book for your student's IEP. There are hundreds of thousands of words, articles, books, and journals written on this topic. The one that will help your family the most is the one you will put together for **your** child.

If you are already involved in the IEP (Individualized Education Program) process, this workbook will help you make sure you have dotted all the i's, and your child's education is kept on track. There is an extensive Appendix to assist you. There are workbook pages in the Appendix for you to copy.

If you are just starting out, this workbook will help you identify the steps in the process and help you make it successfully from step to step. It will help save you time – time you can spend with your family. It doesn't contain anywhere near all the information you need to know – it tells you places where that information is available so you can put together "Our Book". It contains the wisdom of parents – in plain language.

(Note→: **Underlined words** are defined in Appendix 2, Lookup+.)