

Key

# I am Your Child: A Child with Special Needs

## A World of Unknowns

- Identify 3 different ways parents can find out their child has a special need?
  - Prenatal Tests
  - Physical Check-ups @ Birth
  - Sometimes remain hidden until child is older; then it's discovered.
- Identify several emotions parents often experience when learning their child has a special need.
  - Roller-coaster of emotions -- disappointed, denial, helpless, guilt
  - same feelings as grieving (grieve for "normal" child)

## Getting Answers

- Why are learning problems difficult to diagnose?
  - Not all symptoms show up in all situations
- Who is typically the first person to suspect a problem and what are some things to look for in the child?
  - Parents: look for interactions with others; surroundings, how muscles are working, how they handle emotions, are they reaching typical milestones. Be sure to keep records of your observations or suspicions.
- How can schools help with a child's diagnosis?
  - They can evaluate a child. - even child before age 2.
- Why is early intervention so important?
  - The earlier you get help the more therapy/services/help etc. can be provided to help overcome/improve the "need".

## Getting Help

- Even though it's difficult why should parents ask for help?
  - It benefits their child and can help them understand as well.

- Who is the child's best advocate?

Parent

- How and where can we find resources in our community to help?  
Ask local doctors, schools, IV's? Search internet for local resources/help
- What is an IEP?  
A special learning iplan made specifically for child/needs.  
individualized education program plan

### Beyond the Label

- How can children be defined by a disability?  
Often labeled by what they can't do instead of what they can do.
- What is the mission of a parent of a disabled child?  
To find child's speciality and help foster it.  
what they can do  
strengthen
- True or False: You are your child's first and best teacher.
- Why do parents and teachers need to be patient with special needs children?  
They progress at their own rate, they will have struggles and we often need to repeat or provide repetition to help them learn.

### Taking Care of Yourself

- Why do parents need to take care of themselves?  
How can they give their best if they're not at their best.
- Why should parents interact with other parents of other special needs children?  
Help each other, be support to each other. help answer questions, give advice, etc. It helps to know you're not alone.
- Why do you need time for your spouse and your marital relationship?  
Your spouse/marriage are just as important as your child.  
If you don't work on it, it can fall apart.
- What should you do if you have other children who are not disabled?  
Make them feel special too, spend individual time w/ them.