Watson Takes a Close Look At….
IEP at a Glance: What and Why

An IEP is a document that teams work hard to develop. Using all the important information in this document across settings and personnel can be challenging. One strategy that can help teams is to abbreviate the IEP into a one page "IEP at a Glance".

A one page look at the IEP can help teaching teams use the information often, quickly, and for many situations. Here is an example of one "IEP at a Glance" for a student:

IEP AT A GLANCE
Student: J.J.
Goals/Objectives
1. Fasten jacket zipper, shirt buttons
2. Answer "Wh" ?s about picture/short story
3. Complete sequential picture activities w/3-4 steps
4. Communicate w/verbal or augmentative commuica (wh ?s)
5. Take turns during group activities
6. Answer social/personal info ?s verbal or augmen responses
7. Functional sight word/phrase to pix (edmark I)
8. ID functions for items
9. Add & subtract to 18 (addition sentences /counters)
10. ID dimes, quarters; tell time to 15"
11. Print upper & lowercase ltrs

Motivators: Gym class, playing "catch", basketball, peers, playdough, sand/water; listening to favorite music, stories on tape, pasting activities

Strengths: transitions easily between activities, says "hi", smiles; writes first and last name, bathrooms independently,, excellent matching skills

Specially Designed Instruction:
- Use of computer/language master
- Verbal modeling
- Incorporate activities to exert pressure w/hands: push marble/ opening in containers, push coins or beads into playdo,;squirt guns/ spray bottles; crumple paper into balls/squeeze; loop scissors to cut heavy paper; playdo, styrofoam plates; fold & crease paper; pinch/close ziplock bags
- Word schedule

Having such an easy tool will:
- ✓ Ensure that all staff have easy access to the IEP for each student
- ✓ Ensure consistency
- ✓ Promote implementation of the IEP
- ✓ Aid in room and material design in order to design more effective classroom environments
- ✓ Promote incorporation of IEP goals into the teaching process throughout a child's day
- ✓ Aid in data collection procedures

Some classrooms hang the document on bulletin boards to ensure use across the day. Others place them in data notebooks. Many teachers initially use them as a quick guide to create their classroom.

In this example the teacher can glance and see the possibilities of creating a computer center, a language master center, a listening center, and an art center based on the student motivators and specially designed instruction. The teacher can glance and see an opportunity to assign classroom jobs of spritzing and cleaning an art table based on specially designed instruction.

A paraprofessional who may be monitoring an opening time and takes the one page document with him/her can quickly cue the teacher for opportunities to incorporate objectives such as answering "wh?", and social questions.

In one public school the special education teacher gave all the regular education staff an "IEP at a Glance" even though all had access to the entire IEP. One teacher stated, "Finally, thank goodness!"