

STEP means (Support and Training for Exceptional parents Inc.) It is a family-to-family organization that was formed by families. STEP is also run by families to support and train families like myself on issues about special education. Most family members like myself, did not know what to do or say when it came to decision making on our children's' individual school meetings called IEP, which is very important to families to know.

I used to be very frustrated about things that were happening to my daughter and did not know then where to go for help. Some of the issues were:

My special need daughter never was included in field trips because she was the only one in a wheelchair in her class, and therefore, there was not a bus with a ramp available just for her.

She was ignored back then during class activities because she cannot see, talk, or do anything for herself.

I was called from home or work each time she had a seizure, even though seizures were part of her disability.

All this has changed since I met STEP.

I found out about STEP through talking to various people at work and hospitals about my frustration. I was at my house when one of the people I met called me and gave me STEP's number to call. Since my first call to STEP, my life got better because I have been attending their meetings, trainings, and have ongoing support from them.

When I attend STEP meetings, I meet a lot of other family members with the same or similar issues. I have lots of support from STEP, including their trainings and workshops, which are very helpful because it has make me stronger and able to be a better advocate to my daughter, when it comes to her education and decision making.