

## **Your Rights as a Parent in Early Childhood Service**

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### **Why Your Voice Matters**

When your child is receiving Early Intervention (Tiny-K) or Preschool Special Education services in Kansas, **you are not just invited to the table — you are essential.** The law recognizes your role as a decision-maker and advocate for your child's success.

You know your child best. You bring their personality, history, and daily experiences. The school and service providers bring expertise in development, instruction, and behavior. Together, you form a team.

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### **Key Rights You Hold in Kansas**

- **You have the right to request an evaluation** if you have concerns about your child's development.
- **You must provide written consent** before any evaluations or services begin.
- **You are a full team member** in developing an IFSP (for children under 3) or IEP (for children 3–5).
- **You can ask questions, suggest goals, and request changes** at any time.
- **You must receive information in a language you understand**, including interpreters if needed.
- **You can say yes or no to services.** You are never required to agree to a plan you're uncomfortable with.
- **You have the right to dispute decisions** through mediation, a complaint, or a due process hearing.
- **You must be given a copy of the Parent Rights Handbook (Procedural Safeguards)** at key points in the process.
- **No changes to your child's IEP or services can be made without your consent.** The team must meet and include you before any decisions are finalized.

- **You have the right to receive prior written notice** any time the school proposes or refuses to take action related to your child’s identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of services.
  - **You can request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)** if you disagree with the results of the school’s evaluation.
  - **Your child has the right to receive services in the least restrictive environment (LRE)**, meaning with typically developing peers whenever possible.
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## **When Do You Receive a Parent Rights Handbook?**

You should receive your official procedural safeguards:

- When you first request or the district proposes an evaluation
- When services are first offered
- If you file a complaint
- If there is a change in placement or services

In Kansas, this handbook is available from your Tiny-K provider or school district. You can also download it anytime at: [KSDE Parent Rights Resources](#)

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## **What Other Parents Wish They Knew**

- “I thought I had to say yes to everything the team said — but I learned I could pause and think.”
  - “Asking for things in writing helped me feel more confident.”
  - “Knowing my rights made me feel like a true partner, not just a guest.”
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## **Parent Reflection Space**

*Use these questions to strengthen your voice and confidence as an advocate.*

- What do I already know about what helps my child thrive?
  - What parts of this process are unclear or overwhelming?
  - What support do I need to speak up for my child?
  - Who can I ask to join or support me in meetings?
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## Sources

- Kansas State Department of Education. (2023). *Special Education Process Handbook*. Retrieved from <https://www.ksde.org/>
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (2004). Retrieved from <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>
  - Kansas Infant-Toddler Services. (2023). *Tiny-K Family Rights*. Retrieved from <https://tiny-k.org/>
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## Important Reminder

*This handout reflects Kansas-specific guidance. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, contact your local school district or Tiny-K provider and ask for the latest version of the Parent Rights Handbook.*