

# MILITARY ONE SOURCE CONNECTION

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## FTC ScamCasts Don't Get Taken



Carol Kando-Paneda  
ScamCasts Narrator

You work hard for your money. Unfortunately, there are scam-artists out there who would like to take it from you. But we've arranged for you to have a first-class education in avoiding all kinds of fraudulent schemes, from credit-repair scams, to vacation scams, to employment scams,

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The ScamCasts are narrated by Carol Kando-Paneda, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission. You can listen to them online, or download to another device for listening later, by going to [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com). (Type "ScamCast with the FTC" into the search box.)

## When Your Child Has Special Needs Communicating at IEP Meetings and Parent-Teacher Conferences

It's important to communicate regularly with your child's teachers, especially if you're the parent of a child with special needs. Here are some suggestions for clear and effective communication during IEP meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

### IEP meetings

IEP meetings are a great opportunity to communicate with your child's teachers and other specialists. They also give teachers and therapists an opportunity to communicate with each other. These tips can help:

- **Be prepared.** IEP meetings generate a lot of paperwork. Create a system to help you keep track of your child's papers as they relate to the IEP.
- **Stay cool and communicate clearly.** Good communication includes direct eye contact, an even voice, and open body language. You can still be polite to someone even if you don't agree.

- **If you don't understand** what someone has said, politely ask, "Did I understand you to say that...?" This can clear up a misunderstanding early on or help define an area of disagreement.
- **Don't be embarrassed** to ask for further explanations. Look for common ground and make sure others know you are trying to understand their point of view.
- **Ask for regular communication** with your child's teachers and service providers.



### Parent-teacher conferences

Almost every school holds some form of parent-teacher conferences—conversations with a teacher about your

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child's schoolwork. These tips will help you make the most of conferences:

- **Before the conference**, review work your child has brought home from school. You may find areas of concern to talk about. Bring the work with you.
- **Ask your child** if there's anything she would like you to bring up. You might also ask what she thinks the teacher will say.
- **Consider leaving your children at home** with a babysitter. It will be easier for you to concentrate.
- **Be punctual.** Teachers usually have several conferences scheduled in a row and will appreciate your promptness.
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** With younger children, you may want to ask more about behavior or learning styles. With older children, you may need to discuss curriculum or plans for high school (and beyond).
  - What are your goals for your students this year?

- What can I do to help my child and reinforce his learning at home?
  - Are the accommodations effective?
  - What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
  - What areas need more work and improvement?
  - Does my child participate in class?
  - How much homework do you expect students to do each night? What kind of homework do you assign?
- **Develop an action plan.** If you're concerned about your child's academic performance, work with the teacher to develop a plan for improvement.
  - **Look at the goals and objectives** on your child's IEP. Now might be a good time to review the progress your child is making and see if changes need to be made.
  - **Remember to thank the teacher** for assisting your child and taking the time to meet with you.

*Excerpted from an article on [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com). Enter "Communicating with Teachers When Your Child Has Special Needs" into the search box.*

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"Spouses, I also urge you...if you need someone to talk to, Military OneSource is an awesome resource...call 1.800.342.9647 to talk to someone and don't go it alone. When I was a new Army wife, we just didn't have all these great resources and places to go for help." — June 16

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