

CONTENTS

Introduction xi

PART I Know Your Rights 1

1 Determining Eligibility 3

Step 1: The Categorical Element 5

Step 2: The Functional Element 6

Evaluating Children Under Age Three 10

Evaluating Children Ages Three to Twenty-One 11

Eligibility 13

What's Next 15

2 Individual Family Services Plan 17

What Are Early Intervention Services? 17

Preparing to Write the Individual Family Services Plan 21

Transitioning from the Individual Family Services Plan to the Individual Education Plan 25

3 Individual Education Plan 27
What Are Special-Education Services? 27
Preparing to Write the Individual Education Plan 29
The IEP 32
What's Next 37

4 Procedural Due Process 39
What If You and the School Disagree? 39
Is It Possible to Win a Due-Process Hearing? 44

PART II The Special-Needs Classroom 47

5 The Regular Classroom Versus the Special-Needs Classroom 49
When Your Child Should Be in a Special-Needs Classroom 49
When to Include Your Child in the Regular Classroom 51
Tips for Buying Educational Products or Toys for Your Special-Needs
Child 57

6 Accommodations and Modifications 61
Preschool 63
Elementary School 64
Middle School and High School 69

7 Administration 73
Meetings 75
Paperwork 76

PART III Special-Needs Tips by Grade Level 81**8** **Preschool to Kindergarten 83**

Building-Block Skills 84

Reading Readiness 86

Writing Readiness 89

Math Readiness 91

Assessment 94

9 **Elementary School 99**

Building-Block Skills 99

Reading Skills 103

Writing Skills 108

Math Skills 113

Assessment 119

10 **Middle School 123**

Transitioning from Elementary School to Middle School 123

Building-Block Skills 124

Assessment 139

11 **High School 143**

Compensation Strategies 143

Self-Regulation and Compensation Strategies 145

Time-Management Skills 147

Life Skills 148

12	Exiting Special Services	149
	Transitioning from High School to the Real World	149
	Choosing Colleges for Students with Disabilities	155
	How Can You Help Your Child Be Successful in College?	157
	Preparing for Postsecondary Education	163
	Appendix A: Acronyms	167
	Appendix B: The Forms	197
	Appendix C: IEP Sample Form	225
	Appendix D: Glossary	237
	Appendix E: Disability Checklists by Age	243
	Appendix F: Internet Resources	259
	References	265
	Index	279