



Educational Planning for Children with Sickle Cell Disease

STARR Program
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



"A good education is the next best thing to a pushy mother."

Charles Schulz



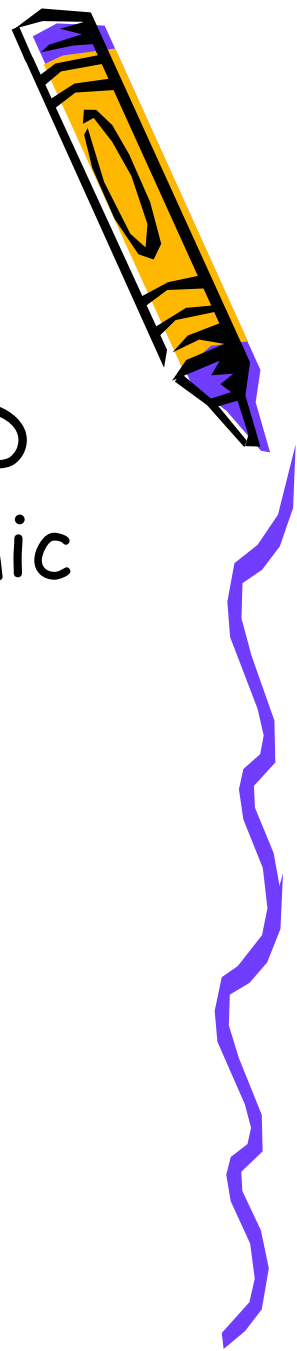
STARR Program



- The **S**uccess Through **A**cademic Resources and **R**esearch (STARR) Program was created to partner with parents to create a successful school experience for children with sickle cell disease (SCD).
- STARR Coordinators visit with families in H Clinic and participate in school meetings.
- STARR Coordinators are Molly Freeman and Latacha Hamilton.



STARR Program Objectives

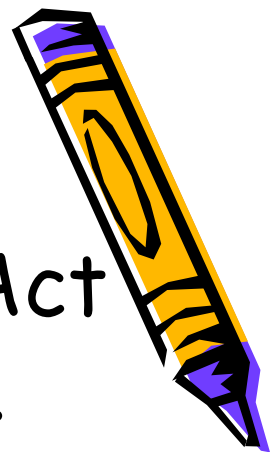


- To educate school staff about SCD
- To help you monitor child's academic progress
- To work with family and school to develop an education plan
 - 504 Plan
 - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)



504 Plan

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal civil rights law.
- It allows for modifications and accommodations to help students with medical concerns.
- Examples...
 - Frequent restroom and water breaks
 - Easier access to school nurse
 - The chance to make up missed assignments
 - Extended time on assignments and tests



IEP

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) allows for the creation of a legal document to address child's specific needs.
- This is called the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and it includes modifications and services available to the child.
- Examples...
 - Physical, occupational, and/or speech and language therapy, psychological services, and social work
 - Special education teaching
 - Read aloud and extended time for testing
 - Assisted transportation



Benefits of the Education Plan



- Identifies child's medical and learning needs
- Creates a team that includes parents, school staff, and SJCRH medical professionals
- Provides individual rights for parent and child
- Increases the chances of child's academic success



How to Schedule a Meeting...



- Call your child's school.
- Tell them that you would like to create/update a 504 Plan or IEP for your child.
- Agree on a date and time to meet.
- Contact a STARR Coordinator with the scheduled time.
- Come with an open heart and mind to advocate what's best for your child.



STARR Coordinators

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