

Parent Counseling and Training

Parent counseling and training is an important related service that can help parents enhance the vital role they play in the lives of their children. Its definition is found at **§300.34(c)(8)** and reads:

(8)(i) *Parent counseling and training* means assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child;

(ii) Providing parents with information about child development; and

(iii) Helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP.

The first two parts of this definition are longstanding in **IDEA**. The last part—regarding helping parents acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP—was added in **IDEA '97** “to recognize the more active role of parents as participants in the education of their children” (71 Fed. Reg. at 46573) and is retained in **IDEA 2004**. As with all related services, parent counseling and training would only be provided to parents “if a child's IEP team determines that it is necessary for the child to receive FAPE” (Id.).