

Chapter 3

Learning Expeditions

Following are some ideas that may extend your learning.

1. Interview a parent of a child with a disability in their home. Ask them to tell their story of their child and interactions with professionals.
2. Spend an evening with a family and a child with a disability. Accompany them on an outing or a community event. Take notes regarding family interactions, how the family responds to the child, issues that come up.
3. Locate a teacher who has a reputation for partnering effectively with parents. Interview this teacher and ask about his or her philosophy and practices with parents. Attend a planning meeting for a child with a disability.
4. Identify an adult with a disability who is successful in their career. Ask them to tell their story, particularly emphasizing their relationship with their parents and the interactions of their parents and the school. What does this tell you?
5. Attend a support group meeting of parents of children with special needs. What do they discuss? What stories do they tell or issues do they bring up related to interacting with teachers and other professionals?
6. Contact a local advocacy organization for people with disabilities that provide family support and advocacy and interview a staff person? What do they do? What do they feel are key issues that are facing families of children with disabilities and other special needs?
7. Identify a local school that has a reputation for exemplary practices in partnering with parents. Interview the principal and observe some of their activities. What do they do? What is the role and place of students with disabilities and their families in this school?