

# Why use ADR?

“*ADR fosters trusting relationships between parents and school districts.*”  
-Family Member



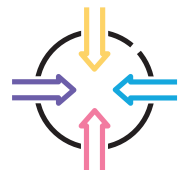
**Build trust**

**Talk without being interrupted**



**Be truly heard**

**Hear all perspectives**



**Ask questions without judgement or blame**

**Work together to identify the actual problem**



**Brainstorm solutions**

**Save time**



## ADR Team

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Please visit the SELPA website at:  
[sutterselpa.org](http://sutterselpa.org)

Do **YOU** have concerns  
about your child's  
special education or  
related services?



**Try Alternative  
Dispute Resolution  
(ADR)!**



**It's FREE to  
all parents!**



*"We are grateful for ...  
ADR ... because finally  
our voices are heard."*

-Parent

## What does ADR look like?

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is an effective way for **ALL** families of children with special needs to work with their schools and school districts to resolve disagreements



**at no cost to the families.** ADR uses “neutral facilitators” to make sure that families’ concerns are heard and respected.

## What is a neutral facilitator?

A neutral facilitator is someone who plans and guides ADR conversations. They don’t have a “side” in the disagreement.

“My experience working with (the District) team to find a solution for my daughter’s special needs was handled in a professional and timely manner.”

-Parent

## What are some examples of the ADR processes?

When disagreements come up, a neutral facilitator can

- ▶ Teach skills to make ADR meetings more effective.
- ▶ Guide one-on-one or group meetings between family members and school staff.
- ▶ Guide development of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).



Although there are different types of ADR processes, the intent is always the same: to **solve problems and improve relationships between families and schools.**

## How do I Prepare for an ADR Meeting?

- ▶ Review current and previous IEP papers and assessment reports.
- ▶ List things that have helped your child learn in the past.
- ▶ Identify what you like about the current proposed IEP.
- ▶ Identify items in the current proposed IEP you don’t agree with and why.
- ▶ Write notes about your area(s) of concern and what you suggest should be included in the IEP instead.
- ▶ Come to the ADR meeting with the plan of solving problems together!

## What should I ask about ADR?

- ▶ Who will be there from the district?
- ▶ Who can I bring with me?
- ▶ Will we make changes to my child’s IEP?
- ▶ Is the process confidential?
- ▶ Will we make a confidential agreement?

## Resources

The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education  
<https://www.cadeworks.org/state-parent-centers/california>

Family Involvement and Partnerships - Resources and Support for Families of Children with Disabilities  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp/>