Today’s piece was prepared by Jennifer Meylor, MD based on a Seattle Times article [Many families in Washington state are waiting on special education services during coronavirus closure](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/many-families-in-washington-state-are-waiting-on-special-education-services-during-coronavirus-closures/).

In this article the author exposes the lack of funding and resources for special education services during COVID19 times. The author focuses the beginning of the article on services guaranteed through IEPs that were not available during the early weeks of COVID lockdown, such as speech therapy. The article looks at the difficulties of transitioning special education services normally provided in schools to providing these services at home. Many parents are interviewed on their perspective after not receiving services for their kids and how that has affected their education and home routine. Most parents admit to feeling overwhelmed and uncertain at how they will be able to fill in for the services their kids had previously relied on. The author then finishes up the article by providing example of school districts who have started to be successful with remote learning in special education, though many districts still struggle to gain access to computers for their teachers and students.

Though now a few months old, this article provides insight to a topic that greatly affects children seen in DBP clinic. While education as a whole has been challenged during these times, special education has taken a particularly hard hit. This article provides insight from the perspective of both families and the school districts, and does a fair job balancing the two. The AAP recently published a reaffirmation for an [article written in 2015](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/6/e1650) regarding health care providers’ role in special education in the lens of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in which the article emphasized the importance of advocating for all appropriate special education services for children with special needs.

**RESOURCES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION DURING COVID-19:**[Disability Rights Washington](https://www.disabilityrightswa.org/) *Not-profit protecting human and legal rights of WA State residents with disability.*[Healthy Children](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx) *AAP site with guidance for parents on COVID-19*[IDEA information - Legal Information Institute](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx) *Site of Cornell Law School*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!