



ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD

Parents are the child's best advocates. Effective advocacy is a **positive** process, for the most part.

TIPS TO EFFECTIVE AND POSITIVE ADVOCACY

(1) ***Know Your Child's Team***

- connect in both casual and formal settings
- talk regularly with the team (school, KidsAbility)
- volunteer in your child's school, if possible
- participate in school functions, if possible

(2) ***Keep Records***

- may want to maintain a file, binder or day timer which documents:
 - medical appointments
 - school meetings
 - therapy appointments
 - assessment and medical reports
 - phone callsinclude person's name, date and facility
- communication book between home and school

(3) ***Communicate Effectively at Meetings, Appointments***

- prepare a list of your questions, concerns
- provide positive feedback whenever possible
- be clear and direct in your expectations, comments
- document the discussion:
 - follow-up, action person, task
- may want to bring another person for support:
 - takes notes
 - to help clarify and support your points
 - to help clarify and interpret what was said at or following the meeting
- ask questions if you do not understand terminology and language
- listen to what others say in order to understand how they see the situation
- be involved in seeking a solution
- be honest in sharing your limitations in regard to time and energy (e.g. homework, home programs)