



Ways to Advocate for Children

Effective advocates take advantage of all opportunities.

Advocacy can be as simple as wearing a blue ribbon or as complex as working with legislators to create a new piece of legislation. Below is a list of some ways you may choose to advocate on behalf of children and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

What you can do

1. Educate yourself.
 - Look at Web sites that provide information about children's issues.
 - Sign up to receive legislative updates from local agencies concerned about children.
 - Know your elected officials and what they are doing for children and families.
 - Attend a public meeting on children and family issues.
2. Educate others in your community.
 - Wear a blue ribbon and distribute blue ribbons to community members.
 - Add facts about children's issues to your church bulletin or your organization's newsletter.
 - Encourage bookstores and libraries to carry materials on children's issues.
 - Write a letter to a television or radio assignment editor or station manager asking him or her to discuss the issue on air.
 - Produce a flier or newsletter.
 - Lead a discussion group at your place of worship.
3. Get involved with legislation.
 - Write a letter to your federal, state or local officials telling them about your concerns.
 - Attend "lobby days" that are organized to provide individuals with a chance to speak to elected officials about a particular issue, such as child abuse and neglect prevention.
 - Campaign for a candidate.
 - Suggest an idea for a new piece of legislation to your legislator.
4. Volunteer your time.
 - Volunteer for an advocacy organization.
 - Plan a fundraiser.
 - Join a coalition of others concerned about children, like a statewide child abuse prevention organization.
 - Serve on a task force to work for change.
 - Organize a meeting or rally.
 - If you do not have time to volunteer, support a cause financially.