



Helpful Hints to Advocate for your Child

Advocacy is speaking on behalf of yourself or your child to bring about understanding and/or change

“Effective advocacy requires building a solid **plan** and practicing **skills** to help you feel comfortable and confident in reaching your advocacy goals.”

1. **Breaking down the problem**

1. What is the challenge, concern or problem? (If more than one, focus on one at a time)
2. What is my goal?
3. What facts do I know? Not judgements. Facts.

2. **Information gathering**

1. What additional facts or information might I need regarding this situation?
2. How can I go about gathering this information?
3. Who do I need to speak to in order to resolve this situation? Who are the decision-makers?
4. Are there other people who can help me?
5. Identify my rights:
 1. The Australian National Curriculum states that parents have the right to be informed about and understand their child's progress at school
 2. Review the school's Parental Concern Policy (found on their website) and any other relevant policy to my situation

3. **Develop a solution and strategy to address my situation**

1. What are some possible solutions to this situation? Be specific.
2. What are some possible barriers to these solutions?
3. What do I hope the school will do to help me/my child?

4. **Outcomes Thinking**

1. What do I want to happen at the meeting?
2. What do I want to learn at the meeting?
3. What could happen as a result of the meeting?

5. **Practice!**

6. **Teamwork** - Remember the school and I are partners in my child's education
7. **I am not alone** - If it's a face-to-face meeting, I can take a partner, friend or interpreter.

Adapted from Brainline Advocacy Toolkit