



INFORM. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.

PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF DELAWARE

ADVOCACY TIPS AND STRATEGIES

AT A GLANCE

Some essential characteristics of effective advocates:

*Knowledgeable—Informed—Receptive to learning—Good listeners—Respectful—Flexible—Fact Finders—
Goal setters—Good communicators—Determined—Passionate—Reasonable*

Effective advocates ask questions and make an effort to work with others to find agreeable solutions.

Knowledge is Power! Take the opportunity to learn.

You can gain valuable information about special education services and programs in a number of ways:

- Participate in PIC workshops, webinars and events
- Read PIC's weekly and quarterly e-newsletters
- Participate in your child's IEP and school meetings
- Attend your district's Parent Council meetings and participate in other school activities
- Explore PIC's website and your school's website for information and resources
- Visit the Delaware Department of Education's website which includes information about: special education, regulations, curriculum standards, state testing, complaint procedures and more about Delaware public and charter schools

Being prepared is essential! Come to meetings ready to participate!

Preparation is very important and can be the determining factor in having a productive meeting. The following are some suggestions:

- Review the IEP invitation letter so that you know who has been invited
- Become familiar with all sections of the IEP and compare the current one to the previous one
- Observe your child's classroom and learn about programs that interest you
- Review evaluation results
- Make a list of your concerns
- Prioritize your list of concerns to a reasonable number
- Share concerns with the team prior to or at the meeting
- Develop a list of questions that you want to ask specific team members
- Problem-solve solutions to your concerns and be ready to offer ideas

PIC is a statewide non-profit organization with a mission to improve health and educational outcomes for children and youth by empowering them, their families and the professionals who serve them. For more information visit www.picofdel.org or call 302-999-7394.

