

Encouraging Parents to Advocate

How Providers Create Conditions for Parent Advocacy

1

Create a Welcoming Environment

- Parents have a space to meet and discuss
- Practices & policies are family-friendly
- Staff are responsive to parent concerns
- Bilingual staff or translators are available

2

Share Resources

- Provide parents with information on upcoming advocacy campaigns
- Connect parents with advocacy organizations in their community
- Create a monthly newsletter on education issues that impact their children

3

Incorporate Advocacy Activities

- Implement advocacy curricula like Project Citizen, Abriendo Puertas, or similar models
- Invite advocacy groups to speak with parents
- Engage parents in advisory committees
- Involve parents in decision-making and problem solving

Increased Parent
Advocacy

Adapted from: "How can early childhood settings encourage parents to advocate for their child?" Harvard Family Research Project and The Family Involvement Network of Educators. www.hrfp.org. 26 February 2004.