

Advocacy!

Tips on using the power you have to create a more equitable and sustainable early learning system.

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is our way to use the power we have to influence who has resources, who has power, and who can get important information.



Why does it matter?

Advocacy is how we change the big systems that impact our lives, and your personal story is a powerful tool for advocacy!

Who to reach out to:

- Governor Inslee and your state legislators: Have oversight of DCYF and make decisions about directing more funding for provider wages, healthcare, mental health supports, etc.
- Your U.S. Members of Congress: Make decisions about getting more federal funding for child care.
- Your city council and county council: Make sure they know child care is a *HUGE* part of their local economy and community strength!



Tips for being an effective advocate:

- Share your story! Your story is powerful, and YOU are the expert on what support child care providers need.
- Reach out often: Make sure they know child care is a priority in their district.
- Get to know your legislators: Attend meetings they host in your neighborhood or online, invite them to visit your program or attend a community event, send them emails and letters.
- Invite others to join you! Your families, other providers, friends. Even kids can advocate. We are stronger together!



Resources:

- Tell your coach you want to learn more about advocacy.
- Contact Governor Inslee: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/contacting-governors-office>
- Find your representatives in the US Congress & WA State Legislature: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>
- Child Care Aware of WA: <https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/>

