

## ***End of School Year 2020-2021 Advocacy***

**This school year has been especially challenging for students. Our CASA children often have extra challenges on top of the issues caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is especially important for CASA Volunteers to obtain final grades, testing scores, and get updates from teachers to evaluate and monitor academic progress. Below are some tips to help volunteers accomplish this:**

- Contact the school that the child is enrolled in to determine the school's protocols regarding the best way to gather that information. Advocates will need to present their court order. Please do not give them the certified copy. The Advocate Supervisor team can make an extra copy or email a copy of the court order to the school if needed.
- Please remember that it is best to call the school to schedule versus just showing up.
- Some of our CASA children are attending school virtually. They will have a school of origin that they are enrolled in. All of the information can be obtained by contacting the school and emailing instructors.
- Louisiana students are wrapping up testing this week. Some grade levels already have scores in. This information is key in knowing what our CASA children's academic strengths and weaknesses are.

**Once the information is in hand, advocates should schedule an appointment with their advocate supervisor to develop an advocacy plan to address educational needs. Some of the things that CASA Volunteers can advocate for include:**

- Research the summer programs offered by the child's school or community. Children can be linked to these services.
- Ask the child's teacher for online or classroom resources that the child can complete during the summer months.
- Research free or low cost online programs and provide that information to caretakers.
- Determine if the family has appropriate resources for online educational programs. If there is a need, the advocate's supervisor should be notified so a plan can be developed to address that deficit.

**Most communities offer summer programs such as camps or reading programs. These programs may look a bit different this summer. CASA Volunteers should consider the following suggestions to find some fun things for our children:**

- Talk to your CASA child to see what they are interested in doing.
- Contact the child's local library to see what events are scheduled in person or virtually. It would be helpful for caretakers to know the schedule and how to enroll their child.
- Conduct research to see what churches, community centers, schools, and recreation districts have to offer. Determine what costs are involved. If the cost of attendance is a barrier, talk with an Advocate Supervisor to develop an advocacy plan to meet the need.
- Always remember to discuss options with the caretaker to make sure that transportation is available and that the event does not conflict with any family plans.

**The end of the school year is also another transition for children and caretakers. Advocates should be aware of the childcare plan for their assigned CASA child. Scheduling visits with families is often challenging during the summer months. This is a great time of the year to ask about vacation plans and develop a tentative summer visiting schedule.**