

# EDUCATION FOR SELF ADVOCACY:

As your child gets older, they will be confronted with a lot more situations where they will need to advocate for themselves. These situations include, but are not limited, to:

- Seating placement in classrooms
- Telling the teacher that the classroom is too bright
- Telling the teacher that the class is too noisy
- As your child gets older applying for jobs, making appointments
- Finding legal or counseling services

To prepare your child for these situations we need to make sure that we are teaching them how to properly self-advocate early in life. Encouraging self-advocacy can be taught through, but are not limited to:

- Role play through specific situations that the individual may be confronted with or has been confronted with in the past.

“The special education law (IDEA 2004) says that all students must be included to the best of their ability.” Inviting the individual in their younger years to come to their IEP meetings and have an active role instead of just listing. If the child is unable to use their speech, provision of pictures or other material to talk about strengths and weakness would help keep the individual actively engaged. Another helpful idea would be to provide favorite foods during the meeting for a positive environment.

## FURTHER RESOURCES:

Education Self Advocacy can be difficult when access to information about services is unknown. Sometimes it can be hard to find, especially when the individual with Autism does not know where or how to look. The resources listed below provides a starting point to find a variety of helps:

[Advocacy and autism](#)

[Advice on Advocacy](#)

[Role Play Scenarios Across Several Settings for Life Skills / Pragmatic Language](#)

This resource includes camps and literature that encourage educational self-advocacy:

[Higher Education Programming](#)

## CITATIONS:

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