



Ways to Advocate for Kids

Being an advocate doesn't necessarily mean demonstrating for (or against) an issue or testifying before a legislative body. There are many behind-the-scenes activities that you can do to work toward making positive change for children. Here are some ideas!

Personal Advocacy

- Get others interested in your cause
- [Meet with others who share your interest](#)
- Encourage a young person to get involved
- [Get the facts](#) so you can be persuasive
- [Contact state and national resources](#)
- Read the newspaper
- Wear a button
- Put a sign in your yard
- Design a new message for your personalized holiday cards
- Find a service project that your family can do together

Community Advocacy

- Call in to a radio talk show
- Write a letter to the editor or station manager
- Attend a public meeting
- Organize a meeting or rally
- Display a bumper sticker on your car
- Find out what the other side really thinks
- Find common ground with the other side
- Set up a telephone tree or participate in one
- Speak to service clubs, PTO's, etc.
- Encourage your bookstores and libraries to carry [materials](#) on children's issues
- Plan a fundraiser
- Join a coalition of others concerned about children
- Stuff envelopes or answer phones

- Serve on a task force to work for change
- [Support a cause financially](#)
- Produce a flyer or newsletter
- Include an "advocacy thought for the day" on your meeting agenda
- Lead a discussion group at your place of worship
- Add [facts about children's issues](#) to your church bulletin or your organization's newsletter

Legislative Advocacy

- Stay informed and VOTE
- Register others to vote
- Work the election
- Campaign for a candidate
- Clip articles and send them to friends or [to your legislator](#)
- Sign a petition
- [Write a letter to your federal, state or local officials](#)
- Volunteer for an advocacy organization
- Become part of a legislative network
- Testify at a hearing
- Host a candidate's coffee or luncheon

Adapted from "A Guide to Resources in Advocacy: Facts, Strategies and Information," Indiana Youth Institute, 1992.