

## Speaking and Acting on Behalf of Young Children: What Can I Do?

This list is modeled on an activity on multicultural education from *Roots and Wings* (York, 1992). Check which actions you are willing to take on (now or at a later date) in support of children and their families. You are an advocate!

- \_\_\_ 1. Write an article in your school, center or classroom newsletter for families on issues or on ways to speak and act for children.
- \_\_\_ 2. Attend a workshop on being an advocate.
- \_\_\_ 3. Read a book or article on how to be an advocate for young children.
- \_\_\_ 4. Visit a website for resources on advocacy and read current information about issues that re important for young children, families or the profession.
- \_\_\_ 5. Join a child advocacy listserv and become a Children's Champion.
- \_\_\_ 6. Call or email your legislators or other policy makers about current issues on "Call In Days" or whenever issues come up.
- \_\_\_ 7. Tell a neighbor or family member about issues that are important for young children and families.
- \_\_\_ 8. Register to vote and find out which candidates will work on behalf of young children and families.
- \_\_\_ 9. Make sure that you know who your elected representatives at all levels. (Check the NAEYC web page, the local League of Women Voters, your local government web pages or the phone book!)
- \_\_\_ 10. Make a visit and meet your own legislator and local policy maker and share your specific concerns.
- \_\_\_ 11. Write to introduce yourself to one or more of your elected representatives and offer to be a resource or contact person for information about children, families and the profession.
- \_\_\_ 12. Join the public policy committee for your local NAEYC affiliate.

- \_\_\_ 13. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper in support of issues relating to young children, families and the profession.
- \_\_\_ 14. Organize an advocacy on committee in your school or center.
- \_\_\_ 15. Plan a family night, workshop or parent education meeting on current issues and the needs of young children.
- \_\_\_ 16. Respectfully ask families to share their views on issues and encourage them to share with others.
- \_\_\_ 17. Testify on behalf of young children and families or the profession at your state legislature or at a local hearing or attend with someone you know who is speaking and be there to support them.
- \_\_\_ 18. Create a task force of community businesses, volunteer groups, schools, and families to address an issue that affects young children and families.
- \_\_\_ 19. Conduct an advocacy workshop at a local, state or national professional conference.
- \_\_\_ 20. Add your own suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_