South Dakota State University

ECE 470: Early Childhood Inclusion Strategies

Concepts addressed:
Relationships with Families and Communities, and Professionalism: Effective advocacy for children

Students should refer to:

Specifically, students should review:
I. Practicing best practices & using high ethical standards
II. Enacting the standards of the profession
III. NAEYC’s Code of Ethics
IV. Advocacy Issues for Putting People First (Clinton & Gore, 1992)
   a. Affordable quality health care for mothers and children.
   b. Improving K-12 systems, Pre-K systems, and providing opportunities for higher education.
   c. Make homes, schools, and streets safer for children by reducing violence and providing drug education.
   d. Support pro-family and pro-children policies through tax credits for families, medical leaves, childcare networks, and tough child-support legislation.
V. Getting Involved in Advocacy
   a. Support positive, healthy communication between families & professionals, between professionals and government.
   b. Become committed to the field
   c. Become a member of a professional organization
   d. Become active in the professional organization
   e. Become involved with local politics
   f. Contact representatives and government leaders.
VI. Advice from Marian Wright Edelman, President of Children’s Defense Fund: “Hang in with your advocacy for children and the poor. The tide is going to turn. Don’t think you have to be a big dog to make a difference. You just need to be a persistent flea. Enough committed fleas biting strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable and transform even the biggest nation…” (1991).

Helpful websites include:
Wright’s Law: http://www.wrightslaw.com (advocacy for children with special needs)