Understanding Self-Advocacy



How to discuss Self-Advocacy with your son/daughter.



Self-advocacy means you understand your rights and responsibilities. You speak up for your rights and you are able to make choices and decisions that affect your life.

Self-Advocacy Characteristics

Self Awareness

- Interests, Strengths & Preferences
- · Goals & Dreams
- Supports Needed
- · Accommodations Needed
- Characteristics of One's Disability
- Responsibilities

Knowledge of Rights

- Personal Rights
- · Community Rights
- Human Service Rights
- Consumer Rights
- · Educational Rights
- Knowledge of Resources

Communication

- Assertiveness
- Negotiation
- Body Language
- Use of Assistive Technology
- Listening
- Compromise

Leadership

- Knowledge of Group's Rights
- Advocating for Others or for Causes
- Knowledge of Resources
- Organizational Participation

When advocating remember to SHARE

<u>Sit</u> up straight

Have a pleasant tone of voice

Activate your thinking

Tell yourself to pay attention

Tell yourself to participate

Tell yourself to compare ideas

Relax

Don't look uptight

Tell yourself to stay calm

Engage in eye communication



LD Online

www.ldonline.org

LD OnLine is the leading website on learning disabilities, learning disorders and differences which include the following topics:

- · Identifying self-advocacy objectives on an IEP
- Identifying student skills needed for self-advocacy in a job interview
- Items that should be included on the Transition IEP
- Student specific skills regarding self-advocacy needed in a job interview

The 411 on Disability, A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities

http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)

The 411 Workbook is designed to help young people with disabilities and the adults that support them make informed decisions about disclosure. This Workbook helps young people make informed decisions about personal decisions and how it can impact their education, employment, and social lives. This valuable workbook doesn't tell young people what to do, rather it helps them think through their personal journeys and assists them in making the decision whether or not they should disclose and openly share details pertaining to their disabilities.

Job Accommodation Network

www.askjan.org

This website is for employers and employees with disabilities to understand the disability, Americans Disability Act and Reasonable Accommodations on the job site. A list of Organizations can be found under each targeted disability.

- Click A-Z of Disabilities and Accommodations
- Click By Disability
- Click on Targeted Disability
- Click on statement "Accommodations & Accommodations"

Center for Parent Information and Resources

http://www.parentcenterhub.org/?s=Self-advoc

Each category leads to definitions and additional resources supporting the self-advocacy process.

COP Webinar -Making Transition Happen -Transition Tools of Engagement for Youth and Young Adults

http://tinyurl.com/gsxcacn

Self-determination and self-advocacy are keys to youth and young adults' success as they transition from high school to adult life. This session, presented in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN) and the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL), will provide information regarding resources and strategies to enhance active youth engagement.

Life After High School – It's Your Child's Future http://lifeafterieps.com/

This website is a transition resource for parents and youth/young adults.

Self-Advocacy Online: Empower & Connect

http://lifeafterieps.com/self-advocacy-online-empower-connect/

This website is designed to support individuals with intellectual disabilities, including other developmental disabilities. It contains resources such as stories of self-advocacy and connecting to life self-advocacy groups.

Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN) http://pyln.org/pyln

The mission of the PYLN is to purpose to develop the selfdetermination, empowerment, and leadership of youth that promotes successful post school among youth and young adults.

