

Advocacy Paper

Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island



October 26, 2010

ECE0 419

28 Sixth Street
East Providence, RI 02914
Rhode Island College
October 5, 2010

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Katherine Begin:

Over the past few weeks, I have learned about the many helpful things that Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island does for local families. While doing research, I noticed that one of the prominent goals of the organization is to strengthen the bonds between family members and learn how to cope with the challenges that come with new parenting. Having two children of my own, I am fully aware of the challenges that come with parenting, especially during the first two years of life when everyone is adjusting to the new lifestyle. I also understand the joy that parenting can bring a person. I had the pleasure of working in a childcare center at a young age and understood both the challenges and pleasures of being a new mom. My strong support system helped me turn the challenges into exciting new learning experiences. Not all new parents have the support that I had. I am pleased to see all the informative resources on the website that help parents cope with the stresses of having a family. I brainstormed some ideas that extend on what you, at Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island, are already doing. I propose three goals that will help build upon the Strengthening Families program. The first goal is an idea for funding. The second goal will help build a bond between parents and their baby in a positive, exciting way. My third goal creates a support system for new parents that use resources right in their neighborhoods. I thank you for your time while I describe each of these goals.

I understand that before any new programs are established, there must be funding to back it up, which is why my first goal is a proposal for funding. Many people in the state of Rhode Island are aspiring to be teachers. All of whom care deeply about the safety and well-being of children. If these students are educated about Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island and understood the many things that you do for children and their families, I am sure they would be glad to help! Local college students could host bake sales or do a one mile walk around campus asking for families and friends to sponsor them. If we ask college students to help raise money to prevent child abuse it will not only raise awareness on the topic and raise money for the cause, but also will make the difficult topic of child abuse easier to discuss. Being comfortable talking about the issue now will help build confidence later when deciding if action needs to be taken.

Before I move on to my next goal, I must use a quote from the Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island website that caught my attention. "Families overwhelmed by multiple personal, social or economic problems may lack the resources to meet their children's needs and require a

variety of readily accessible services and interventions.” When I read this quote I understood that people may not understand the concept of the parent-child bond. My next goal would be to offer free or affordable baby massage classes in order to strengthen this bond. Brochures with a list of the classes offered could be given to parents as they leave the hospital with their new baby. The brochure can teach parents that along with creating a strong attachment, baby massage offers relaxation, helps the baby feel loved, boosts immune system and promotes better sleep. These are just a few of the positive impacts baby massage has on a child and their parents. One of the most important goals of baby massage is to give parents an avenue for close and nurturing contact. With funding raised from the college students, this service can provide interested people with the training needed to teach parents the benefits of massaging their child. Different places in the community including local libraries often have conference rooms that could easily be used as a quiet, soothing baby massage classroom.

Working together to focus on the positive side of parenting will bring nurturing attitudes instead of negative attitudes. The final proposal I will make in this letter will bring a support system to families with young children. A suggestion that Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island makes to new parents is to spend time with others that are in a similar situation. To further this suggestion, I feel that asking local childcare centers to host play groups for local families on Saturdays will give new parents a place to go to meet other families. Having the families alternate in bringing light, healthy snacks, will minimize the expense of the childcare provider, and give parents a way to get involved with the community and create a circle of support. I have learned that the challenges of life can be lessened by the support created around you.

I hope that you will consider my ideas and continue the wonderful programs you have in place. I hope we, as a community, can get more people involved in building strong families and spreading love.

I thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

ECED 419 Advocacy Paper Rubric Name: [REDACTED] Score: A Revision: A

Total Points 10	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does not yet meet expectations
Advocacy Letter: Letter advocates for infants, toddlers, and families to State leader or organization about an issue or problem. NAEYC Standard 5	3 Letter strongly advocates for infants, toddlers, and their families to a state leader or organization. Issues are well defined and documented with supporting research.	2 - 1 Letter advocates for infants, toddlers, and their families to a state leader or organization. Advocacy issues or problems are defined and documented.	0 Letter is vague and unclear. Issues are not defined or documented.
Advocacy Goals: Three advocacy goals are well defined and presented. NAEYC Standard 5	2 Three advocacy goals are presented and documented with background research and references.	1 Three advocacy goals are presented with some background information.	0 Advocacy goals are either not presented or vague and undocumented.
Knowledge Base: Advocacy letter integrates knowledge of Child Span, Early Intervention, and Prevent Child Abuse RI and relates to advocacy goals. NAEYC Standard 5	3 Advocacy letter fully integrates knowledge of Child Span, Early Intervention, and Prevent Child Abuse RI and relates all or most of them to advocacy goals.	2 - 1 Advocacy letter integrates knowledge of Child-Span, Early Intervention, and/or Prevent Child Abuse RI. At least two of them are related to advocacy goals.	0 Advocacy letter integrates some knowledge of Child-Span, Early Intervention, and/or Prevent Child Abuse RI. At least one of them is related to advocacy goals.
Form: 1. Paper is clearly written with all criteria included. 2. Paper is free from mechanical and grammatical errors. 3. Paper includes a cover sheet. 4. Two copies of the paper are provided.	2 Paper is well written. It includes all of the criteria and has fewer than 3 mechanical or grammatical errors. There is a cover sheet. Two copies are provided.	1 Paper includes most of the criteria and has no more than 5 mechanical or grammatical errors. Two copies are provided.	0 Paper is poorly written. It includes few of the criteria and has more than 5 mechanical or grammatical errors. Two copies are not provided. No cover sheet is provided.