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November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

David Caprio  
Executive Director of Children's Friend and Service  
152 Summer Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Caprio:

I am writing you this letter on behalf of infants and toddlers and their families. I am pleased to see that CHILDSPAN has many different programs that provide support and development for children, families, and teachers. I especially enjoyed discovering the different events that your program has been providing over the course of this year, such as the "Drop Everything and Read" concept that was supported on Dr. Seuss' birthday, and the many activities provided for children at the Big East Fair.

As many people know, keeping children healthy, safe, and strong is a huge issue today. I am aware that one of your goals to accomplish this is to provide advocacy and education to inform the general public about the pressing needs of vulnerable children and families. In order for the company to do this, I think it would be a good idea to reach out to the community more, because no one in my class at school had ever heard of CHILDSPAN or Children's Friend and Service when our teacher asked about it. We didn't know who they were or what they did. Maybe you could advertise more by sending out brochures or flyers so that parents with children in need will find it easier to reach the resources that you provide.

I also have a few suggestions that will assist your other goal of developing and providing comprehensive, effective, and culturally relevant social services which are tailored to meet the specific needs of each child and family served. I think you should also incorporate specific services for families and children who are dealing with abuse, whether it is physical, emotional, or sexual. Just as Prevent Child Abuse RI has a special phone number to call and report abuse, I think that CHILDSPAN/Children's Friend and Service should have a special program where children can receive support services and learn how to cope if they have been abused. You could also have a confidential hotline that parents and other family members could call if they have trouble reporting abuse or even if they just need someone to talk to. This will help strengthen families, and will help to build a sense of caring community within your company.

Last but not least, I think it is great that Early Intervention is one of the services that you provide. One of the goals for this service is that families should know their rights and be able to effectively communicate their children's needs. I think it would be a good idea to have large monthly family meetings where different parents and other family members can all come together and share ideas. Since it can sometimes be difficult raising a child with a disability, this would help the families to feel comfortable by helping each other and by knowing that they are not alone. They will get a chance to share stories and support one another in this way.

I hope you will consider these ideas; I think they could become wonderful attributes not only of the CHILDSPAN program, but all of your other programs as well. They will continue to help your company keep children healthy, strong, and safe, help meet the needs of families, and help children develop to their fullest potential.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

ECED 419 Advocacy Paper Rubric Name [REDACTED] Score: 8 Revision: 1

Total Points 10	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does not yet meet expectations
<b>Advocacy Letter:</b> 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.
<b>Advocacy Goals:</b> 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.
<b>Knowledge Base:</b> Advocacy letter integrates knowledge of <u>Child Span</u> , <u>Early Intervention</u> , and <u>Prevent Child Abuse RI</u> and relates to advocacy goals. NAEYC Standard 5	3 Advocacy letter fully integrates knowledge of <u>Child Span</u> , <u>Early Intervention</u> , and <u>Prevent Child Abuse RI</u> and relates all or most of them to advocacy goals.	2 - 1 Advocacy letter integrates knowledge of <u>Child Span</u> , <u>Early Intervention</u> , and/or <u>Prevent Child Abuse RI</u> . At least two of them are related to advocacy goals.	0 Advocacy letter integrates some knowledge of <u>Child Span</u> , <u>Early Intervention</u> , and/or <u>Prevent Child Abuse RI</u> . At least one of them is related to advocacy goals.
<b>Form:</b> 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.