



# Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders OAFCCD

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## OAFCCD Advocacy Tips

The following tips can help parents and OAFCCD members to be effective advocates for children with communication disorders:

1. **Prepare a written a profile of your child** to take to meetings with school staff or agency case conferences. The profile can include the names and job titles of professional and support staff; a description of the child's strengths and hopes, as well as parent concerns; and a list of ideas to make it easier for the child to be understood, and to learn.
2. **Educate your friends and relatives** about communication disorders. Most people do not know very much about the impacts of speech and language disorders, or about the effectiveness of treatment. As taxpayers, your friends can help to advocate for publicly funded services.
3. **Share your story with elected representatives**, Board members and Trustees. These people are decision makers and it is by hearing your story that they will understand the importance of speech and language services.
4. **Talk to each other** and listen to each other. Many parents report that they feel better when they share their feelings and find out that someone else has had the same experience and feelings.
5. **Help OAFCCD grow!** This is your organization and we need your help to organize meetings, recruit new members, advocate for services, and help other families.