

7th meeting “Legal issues and rights”

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



LECTURE 4:

Advocacy

*Ariadni Ntinou,
Epioni, Athens*



Advocacy

OUTLINE

- I. Definition
- II. Importance of Advocacy
- III. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (Art.5)
- IV. Different groups involved in Advocacy
 - Parents Associations
 - Professionals
 - Policy makers
 - NGOs
- V. Steps to Effective Advocacy
- VI. Things to consider before you start
- VII. SUMMARY



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of Advocacy
- Identify the different groups involved in Advocacy
- Develop a plan for Advocacy activities
- Identify the issues they need to consider for developing an effective Advocacy plan

I. Definition

- Advocacy means giving a person **support to have their voice heard**. It is a service aimed at helping people understand their rights and express their views.
- Advocating for policies and programs in support of individuals and families with autism

Ideally, parents lay the groundwork for self-advocacy when the child is young. An important precondition for successful self-advocacy and disclosure is self-awareness. People with ASD need to understand how autism affects their interactions with others and the environment. Also, they need to be familiar with their strengths and challenges. A parent or caretaker can do this with a child from a very early age. In fact, the earlier a child has an explanation about his differences, the better off he will be.

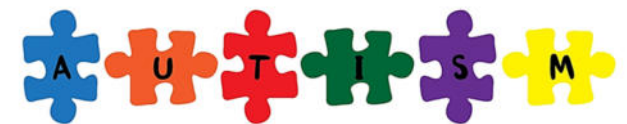
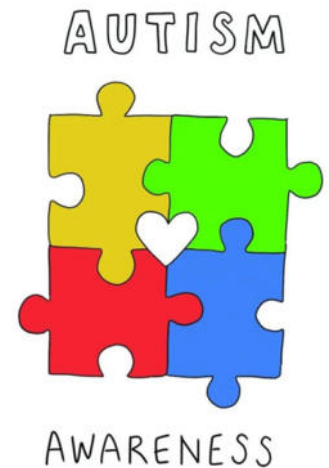
HEAR OUR SPECTRUM OF VOICES



II. Importance of Advocacy

Advocacy seeks to ensure that all people in society are able to:

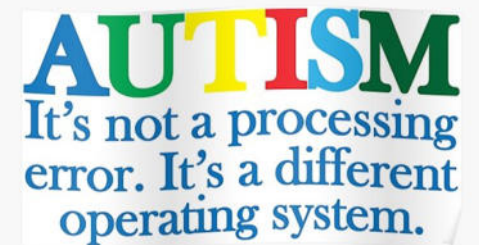
- **Protect and promote their rights**
- **Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives**
- **Express their views, thoughts and concerns**
- **Access information, advice and guidance**
- **Explore choices and options for services and care**



ACCEPT ♥ UNDERSTAND ♥ LOVE

III. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (Art.5)

“States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.”

A graphic with the word "AUTISM" in large, multi-colored letters (A: blue, U: green, T: yellow, I: red, S: blue, M: green). Below it, the text "It's not a processing error. It's a different operating system." is written in a blue, sans-serif font. The graphic is set against a white background with a subtle shadow.

AUTISM
It's not a processing
error. It's a different
operating system.

IV. Different groups involved in Advocacy

Parents Associations

- Advocacy for the child with autism takes a parent through processes of learning.
- serves parents well in getting the services needed
- navigate the maze of system and social services for a child with ASD
- development of skills that assist in the acquisition of services
- acquiring knowledge about their rights
- <https://autismap.gr/syllogoi-somateia?start=30>
- <https://www.carautismroadmap.org/how-to-be-a-good-parent-advocate/?print=pdf>



IV. Different groups involved in Advocacy

Professionals

- Informing policymakers about autism spectrum disorders.
- Influence policy/laws
- Support advocacy groups & organizations e.g. **Ελληνική Εταιρία Προστασίας Αυτιστικών Ατόμων - Ε.Ε.Π.Α.Α.**
- Help your patients navigate complex healthcare systems and advocate for the services they need
- Increase public awareness



The Autistic
Advocate

IV. Different groups in Advocacy

Policy makers

- Relevant ministries can contribute to advocacy.
- Implement their own advocacy interventions and respect the rights of service recipients.
- Support advocacy organizations
- Support the active participation of the various stakeholders, so that their diverse views are expressed.

ACCESS

EMPOWERMENT

INNOVATION

PROTECTION

**POLICY
ADVOCACY**

I&R RESOURCES



IV. Different groups in Advocacy

NGOs

- They strengthen and assist the advocacy interventions of the users of the services and their families.
- Educate service users and families on ways to take initiative.
- They help service users and / or families to create their own organizations
- **Autism-Europe - Train-ASD - <https://youtu.be/GgbXxLUOZJE>**
- **Κέντρο Παιδιού και Εφήβου**



V. Steps to Effective Advocacy

- Decide what is best for your child
- Educate yourself about relevant policy and laws
- Talk to autism experts
- Evaluate all the information
- Ask for a meeting and present your case
- Share your experience being a parent of a child with Autism

6 TIPS TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

- 1 DON'T WAIT FOR RESOURCES.
- 2 BECOME AN EXPERT ON THE DIAGNOSIS.
- 3 KEEP HARD COPIES OF EVERYTHING.
- 4 FIND HELP IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACES.
- 5 KNOW YOUR CHILD'S RIGHTS
- 6 BE INVOLVED IN THE IEP PROCESS.

VI. Things to consider before you start



- What are you hoping to accomplish
- What laws and facts support your position
- Do you advocate to someone who has the authority to grant your request



VII. SUMMARY

In this presentation entitled Advocacy the following points were highlighted

- **Advocacy is an activity that enables people with a disability to have a voice**
- **Groups involved in Advocacy include Parent Associations, Professionals and NGOs**
- **The steps for effective advocacy**
- **Issues to consider when developing Advocacy plan**

REFERENCES

"Advocacy for mental health" Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity
World Health Organization 2003

Advocacy in Psychology
What it is and How to do it

<https://www.apadivisions.org/division-18/governance/committees/policy-advocacy/advocacy-psychology-webinar.pdf>

Carlos Javier Carmona (2017) "The Role That Autism Parent-Led Support Groups Play In Facilitating Advocacy"
Walden University

<https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5459&context=dissertations>

Supporting family carers

Roy McConkey

Chapter published in:

E.G. Iriarte, R. McConkey & R. Gilligan (2015: eds) *Disability and Human Rights: Global Perspectives*. London, Palgrave-Macmillan

Jo Miriam Greenaway-Clarke(2020) *Advocacy and 'Non-Instructed'*. *Advocacy with Disabled Children and Young People with Complex*

Communication Needs. THESIS

https://researchportal.port.ac.uk/portal/files/25037792/Final_Thesis_JM_Greenaway_Clarke_.pdf

(Online:10/10/2021)

Shore Stephen M. "The Secrets of Self-Advocacy: How to Make Sure You Take Care of You", *Autism Advocate*, 2006, Vol. 44, No. 4

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THANK YOU!

*ADD HERE THE SPEAKER AND
ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT
DETAILS*

