







What are the biggest challenges advocating for young children?

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Challenges advocating for young children
Unable to communicate

1. Vulnerability
2. Developmental milestones
3. Trauma responses
4. Sibling attention
5. Multiple provider/caregiver positions



Advocate through:

1. Observation
2. Questions
3. Court Recommendations



Observation

1. Know your expertise
2. Utilize tools
 - a. EDN app
 - b. Young Child Court Form
 - c. Activities



Home Visit Tools



Early Development
Network Phone
Application



Young Child
Court Form



Activities: books,
bubbles, games,
or colors



Questions:

1. Who
2. What



Questions:

WHO	
Parent	Medical Provider
Caregiver	EDN/Special Education Provider
Daycare Provider	Child and Family Services Specialist
Relatives	Therapeutic Providers
FSW/visitation Providers	



What type of questions are most helpful when talking with other providers/caregivers for young children?

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Questions:

1. Observations consistent?
2. Where are inconsistencies?
3. What would help?



Recommendations:

1. Who
2. When
3. How
4. What



Recommendations:

Who

1. Child and Family Services Specialist
 - Court report
2. Guardian ad litem
 - GAL report



Recommendations:

When

ANYTIME!



Recommendations:

How

1. Email
2. Letter
3. Phone call
4. In-person



Recommendations:

WHAT	
Therapeutic	Educational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Parent Psychotherapy Dyadic Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDN referral• Educational Surrogate• ECMH Consultation
Well-being/Normalcy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parenting time• Sibling visits• Placement/permanency	



Do you have any questions regarding how to effectively advocate for young children in juvenile court?



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**Recommendations to the Court:
How to Advocate for Young Children
Michelle Paxton**



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College of Law
Center on Children, Families, & the Law
