**Lindy Legras**

**UM86917HCO96138**

**COURSE NAME:**

Advocating for our children

ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**September 2024**

**Table** **of Contents Page**

1. Introduction: Purpose of the Topic 3
2. Description: 4
   1. *Overview of definition and Scope of Advocacy*  4
3. General Analysis 5
   1. *The Importance of Advocacy and its Key Areas*  5
   2. *Theories in Child Advocacy*  6
4. Actualization: 8
   1. *Working with Stakeholders in Child Advocacy*  8
5. Discussions 9
   1. *Impact of Advocating for Children*  9
   2. *Strategies for Successful Child Advocacy*  10
   3. *Roles of Community and Parents*  12
   4. *Raising Awareness and Education*  12
   5. *Barriers to Child Advocacy* 13
6. Application to daily life, Work, Community, and Personal Experiences 14
7. General Recommendations 16
8. Conclusion 17
9. Bibliography 19
10. **Introduction: Purpose of the Topic**

Advocating for children is an essential component when it comes to supporting children’s well-being, protecting them from harmful experiences (Sear-Heiman et al, 2024), and their rights through different settings, such as social, legal, and educational contexts. Children come into this world, with no choice but to be part of this complex (Fellmeth & Heldman, 2019), and inconsistent social network. They are eager to be part of it, even if unconscious of the many dangers ahead. Children need help and guidance to know what is required to be responsible citizens and happy people within this social group. Children may face many challenges when navigating through the different transitions in life, they usually search for the best requirements available to them to reach their full potential. Unfortunately, this creates much confusion about the best process for them to achieve this knowledge. The possibility of children navigating through this process, Grusec (2019) claims that there are people involved in this path: grandparents, teachers, friends, siblings, and parents. Having so many people involved in helping children to grow, this question arises: Are these people in reality playing their effective roles in advocating for this vulnerable group of this society?

Children are so vulnerable that they have difficulties defending themselves when their dignity is at stake, for example, when there is a violation of their rights, under the risk of being harmed. This raises the following concerns: Who advocates for these vulnerable children (Fellmeth & Heldman, 2019), and when? They need responsible and reliable adults to advocate on their behalf, unfortunately, sometimes this is not a reality for many children around the globe. Advocating for children focuses on supporting the idea of promoting, and defending children’s rights, interests, and needs, ensuring their voices are respected.

Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and public services worldwide have the mandate to ensure the safeguarding of children and have their interests at heart, but they have to work collaboratively to tackle and minimize all their challenges. While, all the good efforts of the few systems in place for advocating for our children, sometimes those systems become inflexible to respond appropriately to children’s needs, and many times they fail (Robinson, et al 2019)

Advocating for children is an important topic this paper will look into. It will help create awareness of various aspects of child advocacy such as; giving an overview of advocacy, the importance of advocacy in the lives of children, and its key areas. It will also examine the strategies for successful Child advocacy showing the part it plays to protect and promote children’s rights, and the roles of parents in this process. It will address the various issues when working with stakeholders in child advocacy and the challenges it can bring and will give a clear understanding of the outcomes of the impact of advocating for children, it will also enlighten you on what is happening worldwide and some recommendations to improve such advocacy. Lastly, it will enlighten the readers to understand the author’s personal experiences and contribution in advocating for children in her life and work in a school setting as a school counselor playing the role of the advocator.

1. **Description**
   1. ***Overview definition and the scope of Advocacy***

In this contemporary world, advocating for our children is a more complex field to protect and promote children’s well-being and rights. It is becoming more dangerous than ever before due to the complicated challenges children face, for example, mental issues, health problems, digital extortions, conflict crises (Molloy & Bearer, 2024), and global emergencies. Therefore, advocates struggle to safeguard children from cyber risks and tackle issues such as climate adjustments to conflicts in their own lives.

It is a broad topic that encompasses many aspects, for example; advocating policy, legal representative, also assisting children directly with their needs. The fundamental aspect of advocating for our children is ensuring our children are offered a nurturing and safe setting, protection from mistreatment or abuse, and access to health facilities and education. However, the child advocacy definition goes beyond personal efforts in addressing the universal problems that are affecting children at large. It comprises influencing shared opinions, working with communities in creating helpful systems for children and advocating changes in legislation. Furthermore, advocating for our children involves collaboration with government organizations, and shareholders who implement policies and programs to benefit the children and their families. Unfortunately, according to Smith et al (2022), some studies show that some professionals and experts lack the required expertise and information to deal with children and family needs. Therefore, not much is identified on their sharing, of what exists through these programs, and of what might exist within the impact of the services (Avan & Kirkwood, 2010) It can be concluded that the objective of children’s advocacy is immense, it covers a wide range of initiatives and deeds that aim to safeguard also the promotion of children’s rights. Grusec (2019) maintains a firm conviction that once children can deal with their individual distresses, children grow into healthier members of society. We are living in a speedily shifting world where advocates must play their roles more effectively to shape a better sustainable and secure future for our succeeding generation.

1. **General Analysis**
   1. ***The Importance of Advocacy and its different key areas***

According to West Virginia University (2024), advocacy implicates the promotion of the welfare of an individual or group and helps them to find their power of speech. Will it ever happen that children might be empowered to support themselves? To be an advocate, one must be able to recommend, debate for, and support policy. A study reviewed evidence-based practice where children are inspired and empowered to advocate for themselves and how they are supported when they advocate for themselves. Results showed that when children are empowered to take control of practicing self-advocacy, they make better choices and decisions in their lives. Nevertheless, the National Library of Medicine (2021) identified some possible dangers, for example, children will be pressured to self-advocate even against their wish to do so, in addition, the authors declare that parents' roles also can be harmful to children because it can create some barriers which can reduce the possibilities for children when they want to convey their opinions and views.

The largest defenseless members of our society are children, too often they depend on older adults for safety and care. Sometimes children and young people lack the confidence, ability, and power to advocate for themselves, which results in their voices not being heard (National Library of Medicine, 2021). Therefore, advocacy is important to highlight children’s individual needs (Sear-Heiman et al, 2024), also to ensure they are spotlighted in public strategic policy, education system, and community agendas. When we advocate for our children, we put effort into fighting against issues, for example; neglect, discrimination, and abuse. These may have long-lasting effects on children’s emotional, physical, and psychological growth. There are different key areas involved when advocating for our children. They are outlined in the table below in Figure 1:

**Figure 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Areas** | **Advocacy example** |
| **Protection and Safety** | We need to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect, and mistreatment. Advocacy gives rise to initiatives to reinforce different policies and laws that safeguard and promote children’s rights and a harmless environment. |
| **Education** | It is fundamental for all children to get access to quality schooling, one of their rights. Therefore, it is essential to advocate for reasonable access to education resources, safe and conducive learning settings, and to have trained educators. This involves giving support to policies that reduce classroom size and promote inclusion education for children with a lack of certain abilities. |
| **Mental Wellbeing** | Growing support and awareness of children’s mental well-being (Grusec, 2019) have turned out to be a priority. When we advocate, it helps reduce stigma and, at the same time raise awareness, also make sure that minors get access to health means and counsel when in need. |
| **Health Care Treatment** | For children to develop and have good well-being, they need to have access to inclusive healthcare facilities, since it is crucial for their future. The hard work of advocacy will emphasize that children get frequent check-ups, be vaccinated when necessary, and get psychological support. |
| **Social Justice** | Many marginalized children sometimes face systemic blockades that delay their progression in life. Advocacy here concentrates on dismantling obstructions, those combating equality, and also making sure children’s voice is listened to (Cook, et al, 2021). |

* 1. ***Theories of Child Advocacy***

To understand children’s needs, development, and behavior, it is important to comprehend the framework of theories involved in children’s advocacy since these theories guide your interventions, enlighten advocacy approaches, and augment the effectiveness of advocacy attempts in supporting evidenced-based practices in supporting children’s rights and well-being. There are various theories involved; the following are some theories that guide advocacy efforts; attachment theory scrutinizes the value of secure attachment in children’s social and emotional growth. Ecological systems theory highlights the influence of the many systems that have a toll on children’s development and the social theory aims to focus on acquiring knowledge through social connections and observations. Finally, Grusec (2019) declares that if we want individual results, then the humanistic theory can play a vital role as it emphasizes personal capacity in taking control of individual lives. Although theories are seen as very important, the question remains: what can be accomplished when we bring theory into our practice (Gillett-Swan, Quennerstedt & Moody, 2023)? Furthermore, Herbert (2016) declares that there is little research to say whether these models are effective on children and their families.

Children and young people around the globe face many challenges in their daily lives as mentioned previously. Some of these challenges are as follows:

* **Education access:** Many children and young people encounter barriers to accessing quality schooling, like discrimination, inadequate resources, or even lack of educational facilities.
* **Bullying:** The issue of bullying is becoming a challenge that various children may face once in a while in their lives. It could happen face-to-face, or online, and this may lead to children becoming emotionally distressed accompanied by long-term outcomes.
* **Poverty:** A lot of children suffer from poverty around the world, and this can have an impact on their overall well-being. For example, when their basic needs are not met; education, food, and shelter.
* **Family problems**: Parental drug abuse, divorce or domestic violence may have long-term impacts on children and young people.
* **Mental health problems**: Many children suffer and struggle with different challenges relating to their mental condition. They may suffer from trauma, anxiety, or depression; these may have a detrimental impact on their general development.
* **Online safety and cyberbullying**: Technology use is common and rising amongst children and young people. Their vulnerability is increasingly at stake where online predators, online bullying, and the introduction to inappropriate exposure situations are concerned.
* **Peer stress**: Many children get trapped in engaging in dangerous behaviors, like academic fraudulence, substance misuse, or unhealthy friendships.

Hence, to effectively advocate for children, it is important to understand the many challenges they encounter in their different settings, this could be from external pressures to their internal desires. Parents need to understand that very well, as children’s views are hardly ever sought declares Cook, et al (2021). Therefore, as seen previously, to address those challenges an inclusive approach that involves educators, parents, and the community is crucial.

1. **Actualization** 
   1. ***Working with stakeholders in child advocacy***

Advocating for our children is usually seen as an essential component of safeguarding their welfare, rights, and development in the world. It is regarded as an ethical obligation to protect susceptible children, make sure they have a voice when it comes to decision-making, and promote their well-being. Therefore, putting every effort together is seen as crucial to creating a better equitable, and more fair society. Working with different stakeholders when advocating for children and young people is essential to creating an effective and sustainable transformation. The different stakeholders, such as the policymakers, parents, community agencies, and teachers can bring various perspectives, resources as well as knowledge to the table. Collaboration with the different collaborators will ensure that children’s rights and needs are tackled comprehensively, also the hard work for advocacy is up-to-date with the actual world’s insight and experiences. Therefore, when stakeholders work collectively, impactful resolutions can be implemented, and advocating for changes in policy and creating supportive settings will allow our children to flourish. As good as the above sounds, the research found that children's experiences, voices, and needs are frequently left out or overlooked by policymakers and professionals (Sear-Heiman et al, 2024).

Despite some children being overlooked, many real-life examples can be shared in child advocacy stories where advocates stood beside children when there was unfairness or mistreatment. Below are some of the efforts of advocates advocating for children in different circumstances in their lives:

* The advocator can advocate for parents with a child living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and is facing many challenges at school (Young, 2022). The advocator can advocate for support and supplementary resources for children who have learning difficulties, for example, by requesting specialized rooms and education programs.
* An advocator can also advocate for changing policies to foster an inclusive and safe learning environment, and for anti-bullying initiatives.
* The social worker can advocate for children being neglected in society, in receiving support and care from their guardians or parents. It may comprise ensuring that the child receives appropriate medical care, is placed in a secure and safe home, and gets opportunities to get access to education. Then, the advocator can work with members of the family, as well as the authority to protect their rights and, at the same time improve their quality of living.
* One last example is about students being excluded from school activities. The advocator can mediate negotiations, encourage inclusion as well as empathy among friends, and collaborate with educators in creating opportunities for all pupils so they feel included and valued. Through enthusiastically raising awareness, promoting continuous change, and collaborating with partners, the advocator will be advocating holistically for the success and well-being of all children.

However, despite the efforts on the advocator’s side, there still exist insufficient services and people who hold children’s best interests at heart (Robinson, et al, 2029). Winiecki 2018) proclaims that the impact that mistreatment has on children will be something that will never be fully understood by many.

1. **Discussions** 
   1. ***Impact of Advocating for Children.***

Numerous children around the world conveyed their need to find someone to whom they can speak (Winiecki, 2018), one who will listen and in strict confidentiality (Cook, et al, 2021). Children and young people have the urge to be empowered, in turn becoming future representatives of transformation in their respective communities. Advocacy can play a vital role in shaping the future and well-being of all children and it gives children the power to have their voice. Additionally, it involves raising awareness of problems that affect children, for example, protecting them from being abused. When we advocate for programs and policies that will benefit our children, it will lead to organized progress and changes in the quality of children’s lives. Eventually, it could be said that the effect of advocating for children is deep because it could have an advantage in producing positive consequences, a bright future, and augmented possibilities for our following generation.

Molloy & Bearer (2024) in their research state that the United Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCR) has the mandate to protect children and young people and is seen as a very good source of advocacy to make sure that all children have their rights. They continue to say that there is a growing need to advocate for children’s rights globally and locally: unfortunately, they claim that this Convention is not well known widely, and is not being implemented completely as it should be, as there is evidence there still exist children out there that get access to insufficient, safety, food, education and health.

Many are expressing that childhoods in the world continue to shorten, as many children get forced to leave their schooling, fight in wars, perform dangerous work, some even get married at a very young age, or others are locked in an adult jail. Children’s rights need to be protected by all. Globally, during the year 1984, the world commanders created history by making commitments to all children across the world, promising to fulfill and protect each child’s rights. They adopted the Conventions of the United Nations based on children’s rights. This meant that the world leaders had a new vision, hope, and commitment to supporting the efforts of child advocacy worldwide (UNICEF, no date).

* 1. ***Strategies for Successful Child Advocacy***

It is imperative to say, although there are children today who face that many menaces relating to their civil rights; however, there exists in many countries opportunities for them to realize dreams and rights. When we look back, childcare modification changes have evolved around the globe and amplified support in advocating for children (Winiecki, 2018). Advocating for children may come in different forms, such as promoting safe environments, access to proper education, fighting against injustices, and ensuring quality healthcare. In addition, it teaches children alternatives to defend themselves, builds confidence, and encourages them to practice these in their daily lives. To say one is successful in child advocacy comprises the following:

* Staying well informed of services and resources available,
* Listening to the concerns and needs actively,
* Having a strong bond with children,
* To advocate for children’s well-being and their rights.
* Use social media and education for outreach programs
* Support grassroots action groups
* Raise awareness by employing education
* Foster partnerships with stakeholders
* Ensure there is monitoring and accountability of progress
* Listen and direct children and families to appropriate services
* Assist vulnerable innocent children
* In addition, empower children and young people to advocate for individual rights to ensure voices are respected and understood.

Hence, perseverance, empathy, and good communication are the keys to effective children’s advocacy to minimize their challenges. However, challenges are no exception at this point at the international or national level, stakeholders may resist, provision for support and resources are scarce, also when ethical and legal considerations are complicated to manage conflict of interest as well as to address difficulties. Future studies are necessary to focus on these gaps, as well as to shed some light on the effect on the outcomes of the systems (Sear-Heiman et al, 2024).

It is evident through news broadcasts on television that as the years pass, there is an increase in mischievous children, and they are experiencing multiple crises and continuing conflicts. Molloy & Bearer (2024) state that there are 1 out of 10 children who are affected globally and this is not decreasing. Moreover, when given the number of children identified with their needs not met, for example, Winiecki (2018) shares that more than twenty million young people and children across the globe may have been traumatized, abused, or neglected within a certain year.; this is very alarming for our future generation as it raises this question: How can world leaders, community leaders, and families advocate effectively for those children experiencing crises? Therefore, among the present matters that need advocating for are the children encountering troubles in their own homes, schools, and country. Thus, there is a greater need for adults to care for the health of children, as well as have the urge to empower them to make some positive decisions in their lives.

* 1. ***Roles of Community and Parents***

The first advocator for children are their caregivers and parents. When parents are well informed on children’s rights, also of the different resources accessible to them, they will efficiently support them in their needs (Young, Chafe, Audsa & Gustafson, 2022). Several studies pointed out that the outcomes of children are better when parents and other family members participate in their development. While caregivers and parents can engage in school boards or in community organizations to sensitize themselves, thus, the members of the community, parents, and educators can play a vital role in raising awareness of children’s issues; they can influence policies (Cook, et al, 2021) as well as create a supportive environment where children can thrive. Contrary to the above statement, Young, et al (2022) claim that some guardians and parents are not always in a condition to be effectually able to advocate for their children, for example, parents abusing drugs and alcohol, and this is a worldwide issue. Many studies have discovered that parents using substance abuse are a contributor to children’s (Fellmeth & Heldman, 2019) misery and suffering.

* 1. ***Raising Awareness and Education***

It has been observed that very few studies talk about advocating for children with somewhat childhood disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). According to Young (2022), the result found that parents with an ASD child face numerous challenges and experience isolation. Such groups of children suffer when in school settings as parents are reluctant to advocate with the school on behalf of their child because they are not up-to-date with the education process. Moreover, it is essential to mention the overall that in a school environment, the urge to act as an advocate for children is becoming a challenge. Therefore, these parents need to be empowered by adequate knowledge that they will be able to advocate without fear for their children when needed. Advocacy is considered having a person near you, standing by your side, whenever you feel there is something that is not fair or whether another person has treated you badly, and may want something to be done to make a change (West Virginia University, 2024).

For this reason, promoting awareness of the significance of advocating on behalf of our children is also seen to be an important component of this topic. The educational crusade will inform the wider community about children’s rights, also the difficulties they encounter in their daily lives and, at the same time encourage the community to get involved. Where education is concerned; informal meetings, workshops, and conferences can be organized to make available to all family members the appropriate tools needed when advocating effectively on their children’s behalf. In addition, the school can play an important role in integrating education on advocacy in their curriculum, teach children how to advocate for themselves, and help them to know their rights. It can be said that this issue of advocating for our children seems to be a universal problem, where efforts to increase result is a priority. Unfortunately, it is considerably confusing what are the best processes to achieve results (Grusec, 2019) that children and young people in the world are looking for, and at the same time there seems an insufficient understanding coming from societies as well as unsupportive schemes everywhere (Young et al, 2022). Moreover, Molloy & Bearer (2024) add that at both international and national levels, societies expressed universal distress about the number of children suffering.; those feeling powerless, and insufficient strategies to advocate for individuals.

Fortunately, many countries worldwide have introduced advocacy centers where children and parents can access help when needed, for example National Council for Children. They work collaboratively with schools and communities to extend messages regarding safeguarding children in the school setting. Their key message is to promote a conducive learning environment where children feel safe and valued. To attain this goal, professional development for educators and staff of a school can be organized to sensitize educators on how to care for children under their care.

* 1. ***Barriers to Child Advocacy***

Although advocating for our children is seen generally as valuable, there exist a few controversies that surround its effect. Some of the critics claim that advocating for children may lead mainly to focusing on individuals rather than trying to address common issues affecting most children. Moreover, there may exist concerns that the possible politicization of children’s concerns can lead to contradictory priorities and agendas. There is deliberation on whether this advocacy struggle always gives precedence to children’s best interest, or whether external issues might influence their decisions. It would be interesting to evaluate and know how different countries address children’s rights and needs in line with their programs, policies, and societal approaches, such as examining their regulations and laws that protect children or using international reports produced by the World Health Organization which provide insights on children’s advocacy outcomes and practices internationally. Consequently, keeping in mind these viewpoints is important, as striving for a well-adjusted approach to advocating for children will surely benefit all children and young people in a significant way. In addition, when we evaluate those factors, one will get a clearer view of child advocacy approaches from various countries and also can identify areas that will need improvements and at the same time gain the best practices.

1. **Application to Daily Life, Work, and Personal Experiences**

The world is changing very rapidly with emerging challenges, and advocating for our children is crucial ensuring their rights and needs are safeguarded and addressed accordingly. As a school counselor and an advocator in the Seychelles, we are a small island state in the Indian Ocean consisting of 120 islands, and sharing personal experiences is important. Advocating for our children in a school setting comprises tirelessly and actively promoting children’s rights, and supporting their well-being, and their greatest interest. This encompasses; speaking on their behalf: the ones, who might be encountering challenges, making sure their desires are met, also empowering children to flourish mentally, emotionally, and socially so they do well in education. As advocates for our children, they are helped to traverse their challenges, stand up for themselves, and able to gain access to fundamental resources. However, Winiecki (2018) states that children’s age is seen as a disadvantage, he raised this question: What is the suitable age a child can advocate for him or herself?

Creating a safe space for children to express their goals and desires will assure them that there is a trustworthy individual ready to advocate for them whenever the need arises. Advocating for children in schools involved more people working together, than one counselor alone to achieve results. Therefore, the counselor works collaboratively with peers, parents, family, teachers, and other professionals (Grusec, 20219) in creating a supportive and conducive educational environment, which fosters the individual growth, and academic development of each child. Our primary partners are the parents, they are the primary caregivers to provide their children comfort, also assist them with appropriate skills to cope with distress (Smith-Young, Chafe, Avdas & Gustafson, 2022). Thus, children develop a sense of security with the idea that they are safe. Nevertheless, the author found out that many studies about children’s well-being and safety assert whether parenting is having an impact on children (Grusec,2019), and it is not an exception in the Seychelles.

It has been observed, that while the school counselor as the advocator strives to help improve the quality and outcomes for the children (Molloy & Bearer, 2024), challenges are no exception. It includes dealing with complex family issues, and different students’ needs, as well as collaborating with stakeholders in implementing helpful interventions. The advocator works to create an inclusive and safe school environment and balance the duty to report against confidentiality while handling sensitive problems. Additionally, counselors could encounter confrontations with stakeholders underscoring the significance of resilience or working with inadequate resources. Thus, the author’s native land also has different agencies working to protect and support children, such as the National Council for Children (NCC) and Child Protection under the umbrella of social services; however, these agencies use their unique ways to work in assisting children, which sometimes they are ineffective in their efforts.

The most complicated part for a school counselor being an advocate, is trying to balance students’ rights to privacy with their responsibility to report issues concerning self-harm or child abuse. It can be said that it is a challenge to navigate the ethical and legal repercussions concerning confidentiality because counselors struggle to prioritize the student’s overall well-being at the same time to maintain confidentiality and trust. However, Robinson et al (2019) claim that there is a lot to do to make children’s rights a reality for them.

The experiences of being a school counselor as an advocate have impacted one’s individual life, by necessitating self-care habits, stronger boundaries, and emotional resilience. As the nature of the profession is very demanding, it can affect the psychological well-being, life, and work balance as well as challenging bonds. Additionally, when there is a sense of gratification, individual growth, and empathy from assisting others will surely have an impact on one’s life.

1. **General Recommendations**

Taking everything into account in this paper on child advocacy, recommendations are an important component of the concept of this paper. Therefore, recommendations for advocating for children are vital as they give very clear directions and good practices in promoting and protecting children’s well-being, also provide advocates with adequate knowledge to create an equitable and better supportive environment for our children, to ensure their needs and rights are successfully addressed and maintained. In addition, will facilitate all stakeholders involved to create informed judgments, as well as influence policies in real life, and ensure children’s voices are heard across different settings. Based on the demands of this paper, there are some recommendations below that require more effort on behalf of world leaders, parents, advocators, children and young people, and community leaders:

* **Strengthening laws that protect children**: Advocating for stronger laws in Child protection and enforcing efforts to stop exploitation, abuse, and neglect, additionally, be supportive of initiatives that instruct parents and children about individual rights, such as considering volunteering with agencies focus on the rights of the child.
* **Engagement with policymakers**: It is crucial to be informed about policies, and child welfare issues, and advocating on systematic changes regarding the protection and promotion of child well-being. Also, advocate for adequate budgeting and child-friendly policy and share evidence-based propositions.
* **World leaders' priorities**: Prioritize children’s advocacy in investing towards better education, protection agendas, and better health care. Countries should collaborate with global organizations to implement their policies that give priority to children’s well-being and rights.
* **Increasing awareness and knowledge**: Raising awareness to the public about children’s problems using different means, such as using social modes, launching campaigns, and providing community programs. Education on the importance of the welfare of children should be communicated to the community.
* **Family Support Encouragement**: Create support agendas that can assist families (Molloy & Bearer, 2024), for example, counseling opportunities, parenting sessions, and financial aid. When families are supported and strengthened it gives rise to more nurturing and stable home environments for our children. Parents can be empowered to stay informed of new developments in child protection rights and be encouraged to participate actively in school life to give support to their children’s overall well-being.
* **Promoting Access to Education**: Advocating for policies that make sure that all children have access to better education, embracing childhood schooling as well as supporting children with specific needs (Young, et al, 2022).
* **Supporting Health Care**: Fight for the improvement in health care facilities in favor of children, such as support in mental well-being, vaccinations, and nutrition awareness programs. In addition, making sure that food and health reach children in deprived environments worldwide.
* **Self-awareness**: One must educate oneself and other people on the rights of children and be informed on ways available to support defenseless children and young people in one's community. Also, use different platforms to show awareness (Smith-Young, et al, 2022) to drive optimistic changes and use one’s voice for future generations.
* **Lastly, supporting young people’s involvement**: Supporting and encouraging young people and children to become engaged in the efforts to advocate, as their viewpoints (Robinson & Willow, 2019) could be very powerful to raise awareness and drive change in children and young people’s issues.

1. **Conclusion**

We can conclude that advocating for children remains a continuing commitment that needs dedication, action, and knowledge. When we focus on children’s safety, education, well-being, and rights, we will build a world in which all children will have the opportunity to bloom. It is our collective duty to support their motivations, to ensure they flourish within an environment that is nurturing, bearing in mind their capabilities, and also preparing them for a prosperous future.

As we continue to advocate for our children, we are not just shaping their existence, but, we are contributing to a better as well as a reasonable society for all. Therefore, efforts should continue to raise awareness about children’s rights, implement evidence-based practices, amplify voices, and foster good collaboration between stakeholders. When we prioritize the well-being of children, address pertinent issues, also promote comprehensive practices, then we are well on the way to creating a more reasonable and supportive environment for all our children. Above all, Fellmeth & Heldman (2019) feel that we cannot rely on children and young people to constantly judge their self-interest as they rather need guidance and protection.

This complexity of this topic raised many concerns and showed gaps that exist when advocating for our children globally, such as even though, a lot of issues remain visible, however, many will remain as hidden agendas to be looked into in the future (Cook, et al, 2021).

In conclusion, we can argue that while there exist systems in place to protect and advocate for the dignity of our children and young people at risk, it also raises concerns for future research on the effectiveness of results these models have on children and their families, and there is a lot more to accomplish to promote real advocacy for our future generation worldwide.

1. **Bibliography**

Avan, B.I., & Kirkwood, B.R. (2010) Review of the theoretical framework for the study of child development within public health and epidemiology. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, vol 64(5).pp388-393. BMJ. Retrieved from <https://jstor.org>

Cook, C.L., Livesley, J., Long, T., Sam, M., & Rowland, A.G. (Sept 2021) The Need for Children’s Advocacy Centres: Hearing the voices of Children, Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Nursing, vol 45-issue 4. doi: https://doi.org/10/24694193.2021.19809085

Fellmeth, R. C., & Heldman, J.K. (2019) Child Rights and Remedies (4th ed). Clarity Press, Inc. Atlanta

Gildeth-Swan, J., Quennerstedt, A., & Moody, Z. (April 2023) Theorising in Educational Children’s Rights Research. The International Journal of Children’s Rights, vol 32. Retrieved from https://bri.com7journal>chilarticle-p137\_007b

Grusec, J. C. (2019) Principles of effective parenting: How socialization works. The Guilford Press. New York

Herbert, J.L., & Bromfield, L. (July 2016) Evidence for the Efficacy of the Child Advocacy Center Model: A Systematic Review. TRAUMA, VIOLENCE and ABUSE, vol 17(3). doi:10.1177/1524838015585319

Molloy, E., & Bearer, C.F. (Jan 2024) Advocacy for children in global conflicts: the value of children in our world. Pediatric Research, vol 95, 1386-1387. doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-024-03044-3

National Library of Medicine. (2021) Empowering children and young people to advocate for themselves. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) No 204. Retrieved from <https://ncbi,nlm.nih.gov>

Robinson, B., & Willow, C., et al. (June 2019) Advocacy for Children: children and young people’s advocacy in England. Children’s Commissioner. Retrieved from <https://assets.childrenscommisioner.gov.uk>

Sear-Heiman, Y., Damman, J.L., Lalayants, M., & Gupta, A. (2024) Parent Peer Advocacy, Mentoring, and Support in Child Protection: A Scoping Review of Programs and Services. Psychosocial Intervention, vol, 33(2), 73-88. doi: <https://doi,org/10.5093/pi2024a5>

Smith-Young, J.S., Chafe, R., Audas, R., & Gustafson, D.L. (Feb 24, 2022) “I know How to advocate”: Parents’ Experiences in Advocating for Children and Youth Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Health Services Insights, vol 15. doi: 10.1177/11786329221078803

West Virginia University. (2024) Types of Advocacy. Center for Excellence in Disabilities. Retrieved from <https://Gogwill.ord>

Winiecki, A.M. (2018) Child Advocacy Centers: The benefits to them and the reduction of trauma to children. University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Retrieved from <https://minds.wisconsin.edu>