

# LIFE OF A FAMILY ADVOCATE

*It's harder than it appears, but well worth the benefits!*

# Where to Begin?



Family Advocates have a highly demanding role to play. There is not any simple way of describing what all a Family Advocate does. In order to be a Family Advocate you *MUST* have a caring heart for families and children.

At times a Family Advocate feels as they are the nurturer, secretary, mechanic, bus driver, nurse, physician, referee, and much more!



## *Let's take a look some of those responsibilities!*

- ▣ #1 responsibility – building trusting relationships with the families.
- ▣ Recognize and identify each family's needs.
- ▣ Encourage families to be an advocate for their child(ren).
- ▣ Making contacts with resources to help families.
- ▣ Finding resources.
- ▣ Helping families to make appointments.

# What else does a Family Advocate do?

- ▣ Help in the recruitment process.
- ▣ Submit required reports to Managers.
- ▣ Being familiar with policies and procedures.
- ▣ Maintain documentation on families and children.
- ▣ Completing of PFCE Family Needs/Goals Assessment.
- ▣ Developing of Family Partnerships Agreements with families.
- ▣ Setting up Parent Meetings.
- ▣ Insure all children have a valid immunization.
- ▣ And much more.....



# Some things that other programs have Family Advocates to do.....

- ▣ Keep in mind these are things we can do also.
- ▣ 2 – 3 required home visits a year.
- ▣ Monthly phone contacts with families.
- ▣ All Family Assessments are done in the home.
- ▣ Family in need are seen more frequently.....meaning more than 2 home visits.
- ▣ Every 5 weeks a home visit is done with everyone on the caseload.
- ▣ PFCE Framwork done 3 times a year.

# More things from other programs.....

- ▣ PFCE Framework and Family Assessment are completed separately.
- ▣ Monthly meetings with Family Services Manager.
- ▣ Schedules of whereabouts submitted to Family Services Manager.

# Quote of the Day!!

Positive thinking isn't about expecting the best to happen every time but, accepting that whatever happens is the best for this moment.