



A CALL TO ACTION



Highlight what
quality looks like
in your program.

Continue to
learn and share
it widely with
the community.

Use real stories
that impact the
community
directly about
quality and why it
matters.

Talk about
quality with the
children,
community,
colleagues and
the families in
your program.

WAYS TO ADVOCATE FOR QUALITY

Make advocacy
a part of
everyday
practice. Explain
to parents why
certain
materials and
routines are
valued within
your program.

Contribute
your voice.
Support the
work of MCCA,
speak to your
MLA and
participate in
events where
your voice is
heard.

Continue to
encourage
children's voices to
be shared and
heard in this
important work.

Team Reflection Questions

- What does “quality child care” mean in our daily practice, not just in policy language?
- What are simple ways we have already been advocating for quality without even labeling it as “advocacy”?
- What resources do we have in our community that could help us becoming stronger advocates for quality?

Play with Purpose

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Myth Busters

How it works: Give teams cards with myths on one side (“Quality just means fancy toys”) and facts on the other.

Goal: Teams race to flip myths to facts while explaining why the myth is misleading.

The Budget Puzzle

How it works: Give groups fake “funding dollars” to spend on program elements: staff wages, training, equipment, food, etc.

Goal: Teams decide how to spend to keep “quality high.”

Inviting Children's Voices

How can we shift from having only “adult conversations” about something so important to children; to actually including their voices in meaningful ways? Through play, of course. Below are some developmentally appropriate ways to invite children into the conversation. Feel free to adapt to whatever way would meet the needs of your group of children.

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Infants

Offer infants two options and honour their selection. This helps build early decision-making.

Encourage pointing, gesturing, or simple words to indicate like/dislikes and then immediately so they learn how communication works.

Toddlers

Introduce a talking stick and ask different questions about what children like, or what they are unhappy about. Ask children what could help make it better.

Preschoolers & School Ageds

Have children draw or write out messages on post cards and deliver them to parents or educators. Have them share their thoughts or feelings in a message. When possible, respond to the postcards with a response so children see that their voice is valuable.

Create signs with pictures, or stickers that share what they care about. Parade around the classroom or hallway.

Create an idea wall in your program with sticky notes where children can share what they think is working and what needs fixing.

Create a card game where children need to match “what I care about” and “why it matters” cards to pair. This will help children learn to explain their ideas clearly.

Document your quality journey through pictures, learning stories and picture displays.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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