

ADVOCACY CARDS


WHAT CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW

WHAT ARE THEY ?

- Also known as self-advocacy cards, they are a concise way to communicate the strengths, needs and interests of a learner to the teacher.
- The goal of an Advocacy Card is to act as a meaningful tool for for parents, students and teachers.
- For younger students Advocacy Cards should be created together by parent and child.
- For older students Advocacy Cards should be created independently as a self-advocacy practise.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE ?

- Usually have a picture of the student on the front of the card. with their name.
- Lists interests, strengths, needs and strategies that are relevant to the classroom.
- May also list strategies that are helpful on the back side of the card.

		Marcus Interests: hockey, Lego, puzzles, Roblux, building blocks
My strengths are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading • writing • physical activities, sports • organized • independent • drawing 	Things I find challenging are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • math, especially geometry • spacial awareness • group work • changes in the schedule • loud noises 	
Strategies that work for me when I'm upset: Five Finger Breathing, Push Pull Squeeze, a drink of water, squeezing my fidget		

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT ?

- Help teachers know the student
- Empower parents and students to advocate
- Increases student confidence
- Builds communication between student, parent and school



HOW TO ADVOCATE:

- Reach out to the teacher and let them know that you would like to share some helpful information that you and your child have put together.
- Remember that your partnership with the school is your biggest asset.