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ECE 410

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Mini Ecological Study part 3

## Advocacy plan for my Neighborhood.

To be available to advocate for my neighborhood, I would use all the knowledge I gained in my research about my neighborhoods, their resources and their needs. As I have already indicated, in my neighborhood I have many centers that help children with special needs and I even have schools nearby that are special for these children. But we still need help from the community, from the people who donate to the center and from the parents. As a teacher and through seeing so many situations with people around me and the research that I have done about the topic, I feel the responsibility to fight for the rights of children with special needs. In this country and in my neighborhood, there is a countless amount of help that is offered for this type of people, many of them are currently not in service due to the pandemic and the lack of staff and volunteers. I asked in the Plaza Castillo what happened to these people and they told me that three volunteers died from the corona virus and the others decided to not return due to what is happening around the world. That is why I decided to create a plan because it is unfortunate that we have the services and we are not able to use it.

The first thing we need to do is to educate the person/family about the resources they have in their neighborhood. call the attention of the neighbor through, do some publication on social media, and make some pamphlets with relevant information that may arouse their interest. It's also good to go to schools and talk to parents about all the benefits that they can get from the neighborhood resources. It will help a little with their concerns about their children's development, emotional well-being, behavior, learning or disability. It is always good for parents to know that they are not alone with the problems they are facing and to insist that they express their concerns about the child, because many times parents remain silent and do not say what they are going through with their children, and what happens is that the child's condition worsens. I have seen cases that they remain silent because they do not want to be moved from schools, that school was near their house, ignoring that the availability of special education and related services for children and youth with disabilities in schools is due to the federal law that mandates and supports these services, that's why I insist that the first thing is to educate families and talk to them about IDEA, because many parents don't know about it.

It is extremely important to motivate parents to evaluate their children, and to lose their fear of the diagnosis they will have. Although every state must identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities who need special education and related services, there are many children who have not been evaluated and whose parents are unaware of all the benefits these children have. We also have to educate parents about special education. It is necessary for parents to have the confidence to request an evaluation for their children or call the line for the evaluation of special children. Parents must understand the purpose of their child's evaluation,

and the purpose is to see if their child is "a child with a disability," as defined in IDEA, to gather information that will help determine the educational needs of your child, and to guide decision-making regarding appropriate educational programming for your child. It is also important to know who is considered a child with a disability under IDEA, the categories are autism, specific learning disability, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, hearing impairment, speech or language impairment, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment (including blindness), traumatic brain injury or other health impairment, deafness, deaf-blindness, or emotional disturbance. To be eligible to receive special education and related services, a child must be determined to be a child with a disability.

On the other hand, we need to put into use the resources that our neighborhood already has, that is why we need to motivate people to be volunteers and to have a little more love for the community and for the children that are part of the neighborhood, that why we think we need to talk about the resources that are unactivated, because there is no staff, I think we must do activities where people get to know the resources that are not in function due to the fact that there is no volunteers, where they are told about the great benefits that these resources have and the disadvantages that not using them is bringing to the community.

It is important to encourage children/ parents to go and make use of the resources they have in their neighborhood, such as computer centers, game centers among others that are there here, and unfortunately in the neighborhood they are not using it, because the parents are not aware and the children prefer to have assistance at home and stay playing video games, and those who cannot

play video games, the parents leave them at home with a home attendance or with a relative. We want to motivate the community to learn more about the benefits and to have a little more empathy with the children who need these resources, but cannot use them due to the lack of personnel and volunteers, who were there to help before helping those families. They need to recapture their love and desire to teach and to help children with special needs so that families can enjoy the programs and benefits that our neighborhood offers.

I think my neighborhood has a great benefit, which is having all those resources. We really need to take into account the resources we already have in our neighborhood, try to help the community, educate the people about all the resources we have, and reincorporate ourselves into it. The pandemic has caused a lot of deficiency in the resources that can be offered to children with special needs as well with the people who supported these institutions, today they are not getting the the same support, even the parents are afraid to take their children to a rehabilitation program or an after school program, because they are afraid that the children will be infected of covid. That is why it is important to educate our neighborhood so that they can get ahead and understand that despite the disadvantages of the pandemic, and all the things that we have faced with the pandemic, we have to get ahead and continued we our life and keep getting the best for our children with special needs, and we can't drop these programs because we are going to need them in the future , and we won't have it.