



NEXT STEPS IN BECOMING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVIST

1. **START TALKING.** Find others with concerns similar to yours.
2. **HOLD A MEETING.** Bring like-minded people together to discuss your concerns. Brainstorm next steps you could do together
3. **DEVELOP A CLEAR MESSAGE.** Decide what you are FOR, not just what you are against. Use examples from your classroom or school to illustrate your points.
4. **COMMUNICATE YOUR CONCERNS.**
 - Write letters or send e-mail to your school board, local newspaper, and/or your Senators and Congressman
 - Call your Senators and/or Congressman at **202-225-3121**.
 - Write about your experiences or concerns for **DEY's Guest Blog**. Send to deydirector@gmail.com.
5. **STAY INFORMED.** Sign up to receive communications from advocacy groups, such as:
 - Alliance for Childhood allianceforchildhood.org
 - Badass Teachers Association badassteacher.org
 - Class Size Matters classsizematters.org
 - Defending the Early Years www.deyproject.org
 - Gesell Institute www.gesellinstitute.org/
 - The National Center for Fair & Open Testing www.fairtest.org
 - Network for Public Education www.networkforpubliceducation.org
 - Parents Across America parentsacrossamerica.org
 - Save Our Schools saveourschools.org
 - United Opt Out www.unitedoptout.com
6. **USE SOCIAL MEDIA** to pass on information and research gleaned from the organizations listed above. Find DEY on Facebook: [@Defendingtheearlyyears](https://www.facebook.com/Defendingtheearlyyears) and on Twitter: [@DEY_project](https://twitter.com/DEY_project)
7. **DO SOMETHING TO GENERATE ATTENTION.** Attend a school board meeting or a meeting with your Congressman and speak up! Circulate a petition and deliver it in person. Participate in a march, demonstration, rally, sit-in, or walk-out!
8. **APPLY FOR A DEY MINI-GRANT.** Grants of \$200-\$500 can help with costs for whatever activist idea you decide to implement! Find the application at www.deyproject.org.