**Credential AREA: Family Child Care Credential (Levels 4 & 5)**

**TOPIC: Leadership/Advocacy Domain-Specific Assessment Example**

**Advocacy Letter**

**I. Assessment Competency & Standard Alignment**

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| **Gateways Competencies Assessed** |
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| **LA4**: Advocates for policies, regulations, and safeguards that support family child care quality improvement, alignment and high-quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all children and families served within family child care homes |
| **LA5**: Demonstrates professionalism through participation in collaborative decision-making and extends care and compassion to colleagues and families in the community. |
| **LA7**: Advocates for quality, excellence, and professionalism within and on behalf of the family child care community |

The following assessment measures competencies for the Leadership and Advocacy content area, as indicated below. The assessment addresses competencies at levels 4 and 5.

**Advocacy Letter (LA 4, LA 5, LA 7)**

**Technology Option:**

- Video/audio record options (ex. disseminating on social media)

**Length:** As Needed (typically 500-1,000 words)

A letter of advocacy is an argument directed to an individual or organization who has an interest in the subject and has the ability to make change. Typically, an advocacy letter is written in order to change the thinking of the recipient/readers and, thus, to change the direction of a particular policy initiative or plan of action, funding etc.

 For your letter, choose an individual or organization (or a publication, if you opt for a letter to the editor) that can make a difference on your issue (the issue should be related to young children, family child care and community collaboration!). You may advocate broadly for a shift in paradigm or in a more limited fashion for a specific action. Make sure to use a professional and measured voice that displays the dispositions and professionalism of your role as an early childhood advocate. You must clearly address the letter to the intended recipient, establishing your credibility on the subject before launching into your argument. Answer the following questions for yourself:

1. Why should this person or organization trust you?

2. What authority do you bring to the issue?

3. Have you allowed room for the recipient’s point of view? (which may function as a counter argument depending upon your own view).

4. Make sure to briefly detail the recipient’s position before describing the changes you advocate.

**III. Assessment Rubric**

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| **FCC Leadership and Advocacy Master Rubric** | | | | | |
| **Competency** | **Distinguished** | **Competent** | **Developing** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Unable to Assess** |
| **LA4**: Advocates for policies, regulations, and safeguards that support family child care quality improvement, alignment and high-quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all young children and families served within family child care homes | Promotes and advocates for policies, regulations, and safeguards that support family child care quality improvement, alignment and high-quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all young children and families served within family child care homes | Consistently supports and encourages policies, regulations, and safeguards that support high quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all young children and families served within family child care homes | Supports policies, regulations, and safeguards that support high quality programming | Through action and/or example, does not support policies, regulations, and safeguards that support high quality programming |  |
| **Competency** | **Distinguished** | **Competent** | **Developing** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Unable to Assess** |
| **LA5**: Demonstrates professionalism through participation in collaborative decision-making and extends care and compassion to colleagues and families in the community | Models and encourages professionalism by participating in collaborative decision-making and extending caring and compassion to colleagues and families in the community | Shows professionalism by participating in collaborative decision-making and extending caring and compassion to colleagues and families in the community | Attempts to show professionalism by extending caring and compassion to colleagues and families in the community | Demonstrates unprofessional behavior by not collaborating and or exhibiting behaviors, opinions or responses that lack caring and compassion |  |
| **Competency** | **Distinguished** | **Competent** | **Developing** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Unable to Assess** |
| **LA7**: Advocates for quality, excellence, and professionalism within and on behalf of the family child care community | Promotes others through example and support in defending quality, excellence, and professionalism within and on behalf of the family child care community | Supports and defends quality, excellence, and professionalism within the family child care community | Verbally supports quality and professionalism within the family child care community; however, practice is inconsistent | Does not, through words or practice, promote or support quality and professionalism within the family child care community |  |

Yellow = Level 2 Green = Level 3 Orange = Level 4 Blue = Level 5

**IV. Data Collection & Analysis Tool**

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| **Competency & Standards Alignment** | **Cumulative Assessment Data** | | | | |
| **Competency** | **Distinguished** | **Proficient** | **Needs**  **Improvement** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Unable To Assess** |
| **LA4**: Advocates for policies, regulations, and safeguards that support family child care quality improvement, alignment and high-quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all children and families served within family child care homes |  |  |  |  |  |
| **LA5**: Demonstrates professionalism through participation in collaborative decision-making and extends care and compassion to colleagues and families in the community. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **LA7**: Advocates for quality, excellence, and professionalism within and on behalf of the family child care community |  |  |  |  |  |