

Script: Welcome to our journey into understanding self-advocacy. Here, we will learn about communication and choices.



Script: Let's begin with Who is a Self-Advocate? That is a GREAT question. You are your own self-advocate. An advocate speaks up for themselves and makes choices and decisions for themselves. Everyone has ideas and feelings, and they matter. No one knows more about you than you. It is important for your family, friends and caregivers to hear what is important to you.



Script: Self-advocacy also means learning what you need help with so you can ask for help. Asking for help is brave. It is also means understanding what you need to be healthy and happy and communicating that to others as well.



Script: Where are some places you can be a self-advocate?



Script: You can be a self-advocate at school, home, the bus, and during appointments at the hospital or with your doctor. It is important to understand places and moments where you can be a self-advocate.



Script: One of the choices that you help make is who you would like to have help you when you need it.



Script: There are places and times in your day when your helper supports you to accomplish goals and tasks. Being a self-advocate means you can communicate who you would like to help you do that and how you would like that done.



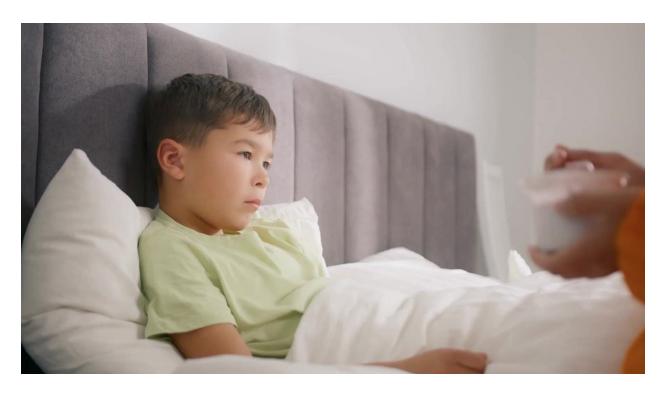
Script: Your next question might be HOW can I communicate my choices to my parent or my helper?



Script: Communication can look different for everyone. It could be with your eyes, mouth, hands, body, AAC devices, or eye gaze. These can be used to communicate who you would like to help you. This could be a parent or a different helper.



Script: Now that we have learned about being a self-advocate, let's take a look at a couple of scenarios where you could have a helper.



Script: Here is an example of a time where you could communicate if you want your parent or a different person to help you eat.



Script: And here is an example of a time where you may want to choose who helps you with your homework. This could be a parent or this could be someone else.



Script: In the first example, you could choose who helps you eat.

In the second example, you could choose who helps you with your homework.

Being a self-advocate is about communicating who you would like there to help you.



Script: Who are your helpers and caregivers? I'll bet some are really fun and make you laugh. That might be who you want to hang out with when you do certain outings. And I'll bet there are some who help you feel better when you are sick or stressed. They might be who you want around when you need to rest or take a break.



Script: Remember, a self-advocate is someone who communicates to people in their life what they want and what's important to them. This is true now and when you grow up. You are your best advocate, and you have the right to communicate who helps care for you.



Script: It is important to talk about this with the people in your life so they can help you make a plan to work towards your goals and dreams. We hope this helps you understand how you are a self-advocate. Thank you for joining us today.