

Understanding Political Context & Influencing Public Policy

DEFINITION

...is a critical component of early years community development because it addresses the broad influences on children in society.

BELIEFS

- Advocacy takes different forms and requires the context to influence the approach.
- Strategic thinking and pro-active planning is more effective than reacting to issues.

KNOWLEDGE

- The process of public policy development.
- How to apply the language of economics to ECD.
- Where to find ECD advocacy resources.
- How the ECD system is impacted by funding and political agendas at local, regional, provincial and national levels.

SKILLS

- Be a champion for children, young people and families
- Engage with and influence key stakeholders to develop and sustain ECD related action.
- Advocate for the resources and capacities required for ECD action.
- Constructively challenge political decisions in an appropriate and sensitive manner.
- Secure cross-sector commitment for child well-being
- Reconcile political priorities and community needs

And working towards:

- Anticipating opportunities and conflict.
- Leading decisions about investing and fund allocations
- Demonstrating accountability to service users and stakeholders
- Managing local priorities and the relationship between local, regional and national agenda