



Leadership in the Workplace

Advocacy Tips for OT Practitioners

- Be a positive influence for your colleagues- get them involved.
- Make an appointment with your supervisor, next in chain of command.
- Outline the bullet points pertaining to the issue you wish to discuss at the meeting and provide details on the why the issue (s) is of concern to you as a professional.
- Recommend specific solutions to the issues that you are discussing.
- Talking points should be direct, concise and backed by evidence; give examples when necessary.
- Be able to highlight OT's distinct value, especially in your setting (be prepared to defend why OT should be addressing particular items versus another profession).
 - OT education and curriculum- extensive training in activity analysis, routines, mental health and quality of life, ADL/IADL assessment and adaptation, environmental adaptations, safety recommendations.
 - Highlight any areas you and/or other OTs in your workplace have received extensive training; received certifications- identify additional areas of value you bring to the work place.
 - Provide evidence from the literature/body of research, courses you attended that support your points. For example, research that participation in occupation can improve one's mental health, regain function after a stroke, etc... think of examples from the populations you work with.
 - Resources may include:
 - AOTA, NOTA, and other professional associations
 - Scholarly journals
 - CEU courses attended
 - Students on fieldwork

"I will press the profession to stand up for itself because that is standing up for every client served by occupational therapy. I will plead for each and every member of Congress, for every state legislator, for every school board member, for every citizen to value occupational therapy. And by doing so promote consumers and clients and their rights to the best possible services."

Chris Metzler, AOTA's Chief Public Officer