

## SPOTLIGHT *on* COMPETENCIES

The Library Education Committee is committed to helping libraries incorporate

competencies into their training and staff development efforts. Each month we will highlight one of the OLC competencies by providing a short definition, a few related skills or behaviors, and resources for more information. As always, we want to know how your library uses competencies. Please send your stories to Astrid Olfenbuttel (aolfenbuttel@worthingtonlibraries.org).

**COMPETENCY:** Children's and Teen Advocacy

**DEFINITION:**

The ability to promote and support the library needs of children and young adults through materials, services, and programming.

**SELECT SKILLS AND BEHAVIORS:**

- Advocates for children and teens before library administrators, staff, and the community to define and communicate the needs of children and promote the need to acknowledge and honor the rights of children to receive quality and respectful library service at all levels.
- Contributes to the orientation, training, supervision, and evaluation of other staff members in implementing excellent customer service to children and teens.
- Ensures that children and teens have full access to library materials, resources, and services.
- Models and promotes a non-judgmental attitude toward children.

**TRAINING RESOURCES:**

- *How to Be a Youth Advocate*. American Library Association. [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsamemonly/yalsamounder/howyouthadvocate.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsamemonly/yalsamounder/howyouthadvocate.cfm).
- *Oh! Teach/INFOhio*. Resource portal for teachers and librarians. [www.oplin.org](http://www.oplin.org).
- *Serving Young Teens and 'Tweens*. Sheila B. Anderson, Libraries Unlimited, 2007. Professional resource book.
- *VOYA – Voice of Youth Advocates*. Professional print and Web journal. [www.voya.com](http://www.voya.com).

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

[www.ceohio.org](http://www.ceohio.org)

**COMPLETE LIST OF COMPETENCIES:**

<http://www.olc.org/CoreCompetencies.asp>

## Awards & Honors

Check out the Awards and Honors section of the OLC Web site from the OLC homepage or at [www.olc.org/awards.asp](http://www.olc.org/awards.asp). The Awards and Honors Committee is working to make the nominations process as easy as possible. Each award category now has suggested background material for the award and the contact information of an Awards and Honors Committee member whom you can contact with questions or suggestions. Awards will be given in 2009 but it's not too early to nominate one of the special people at your library!

