

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country.

The theme for this year's National Child Abuse Prevention Month continues to be "Making Meaningful Connections." When we make meaningful connections with the children, youth, and families in our communities, we can help parents build the knowledge and skills and access the resources necessary to raise happy and healthy children. Everyone can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect and promoting child and family well-being. This section provides information on getting involved to strengthen your community and the families in your community.

Get involved to strengthen your community!

Baby steps

- Meet and greet your neighbors
- Go to a parents meeting at your child's school
- Participate in an activity at your local library or community center

Small steps

- Set up a playgroup in your community at homes or local park (consider inviting people who may not have children at home, like local seniors)
- Organize a community babysitting co-op
- Volunteer at your child's school through the school's administration or the parent's organization
- Encourage local service providers to produce a directory of available services that are easy to find in the community

Big steps

- Organize a community event (a block party, father/daughter dance, parent support group)
- Run for an office in the parent organization at your child's school
- Attend local government meetings (city council or school board meetings) and let them know how important resources are in your community. Let them know how parks, strong schools, and accessible services help to strengthen your family and other families.

Reference: www.childwelfare.gov

