

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of

 CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



It's Time to Prepare for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April

In the 1980s, the high rate of child abuse and neglect received national media and political attention, prompting Congress to pass Joint Resolution 149 requesting that then-President Ronald Reagan designate June 6 through June 12, 1982, as National Child Abuse Prevention Week. President Reagan promptly issued Proclamation 4946, granting this request. The following year, President Reagan issued Proclamation 5039, designating the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. [Read a more comprehensive history.](#)

Most states formed trust funds to promote the prevention of child maltreatment. The Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238.] The CTF Board funds community-based programs that are designed to promote child and family well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect. The funded programs support

families to create safe and nurturing environments for their children.

Now is the time to prepare! Here are some ways your organization can recognize the importance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

- Review the latest resources provided by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). Check out the "Spread the Word" tab, which includes an outreach toolkit with timeline as well as sample messages, graphics, and more. The [Frameworks Institute](#) provides additional messaging and resources. The organization researches and makes recommendations about ways to frame social issues to help people understand a call to action from a broader perspective.

Help Us Create the Best Family Support News Brief for You!

Submission deadline is Feb. 29, 2024.

We strive to deliver a newsletter that caters to your professional interests and provides valuable insights. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we want to ensure that our newsletter aligns with your preferences and needs.

Please take a few minutes to [complete our 12-question survey](#) and share your thoughts on how we can enhance your newsletter experience. Your input will help us tailor our content to better meet your expectations.

We look forward to hearing your insights and continuing to provide content that resonates with you.

Share Your Story

Please send your success stories or program news to share in future News Briefs to [Drewanne Kline](#).

Follow us on social media

To stay up to date, join us online at the [Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Facebook page](#) or at the [Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Facebook page](#).

- Think about where and how you recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month and spread your message. Creating posts for each of the organization's social media accounts and scheduling the posts ahead of time can give you a great start. The previously referenced resources on [childwelfare.gov](#) have some great sample messages and graphics you can use to get started or inspire your own creations. Maybe this can be the year you put together that video you've been talking about to bring more attention to the amazing things you are doing at your organization that promote child and family well-being.
- Invite a local champion or elected official to visit your organization or attend a specific event to learn more about strengths-based practices to support families, the challenges they face, and actions citizens and legislators can take to strengthen the community support for families. Sending an invitation now will increase the chance you will get on their busy schedule and gives you time to alert the media for possible coverage, if the official accepts your invitation.
- Reach out to other local or regional organizations to pool resources and expand the reach of your message. This could be the time to approach that organization you think would make a great partner or get a project started. Is there a potential funder you could approach?

Planning for National Child Abuse Prevention Month could be a great way to get new things started for your organization in your community by using the extra planning time to think outside of the box.



Upcoming Events

Join us May 2 – 22 for Remake Learning Days across Pennsylvania!

This hands-on learning festival showcases the many places where kids can learn across their community, such as arts organizations, museums, schools, libraries, parks, child care centers, and tech companies.

These events give parents and caregivers a chance to learn alongside their children and for kids to experience new learning opportunities. The mission of [Remake Learning Days](#) is to spark joy, encourage curiosity, and create wonder for kids of all ages and their families. You can read more in these [EdWeek](#) and [EdPost](#) articles.

Be a part of Remake Learning Days by hosting an event. [Submit your event here](#) as soon as possible. Funding to support your event may still be available, check your regional webpage for more details.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Remake Learning Days, please email [Miriam Krause](#), coordinator for Remake Learning Days Across Pennsylvania.

Save the Date 2024 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Conference

May 7-9 | State College, Pennsylvania
[Notify Me When Conference Registration Opens](#)

Family Support Webinars

Mental Health and Parenting

March 6 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Supporting Families with Children with Autism

April 10 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Parents as Teachers Online Courses

Foundational and Model Implementation

For new parent educators and new supervisors of affiliate programs.

[Register for the April 15-26, Foundational and Model Implementation Course.](#)

[Register for the April 15-23, Foundational Course.](#)

[Register for the April 2-5, Foundational 2 Course.](#)

If you have any questions regarding registration for Pennsylvania PAT courses, please contact [Drewanne Kline](#).

Register for other courses offered by National Parents as Teachers at their [website](#).

APRIL IS

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth



#ThrivingFamilies



Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

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Safe Kids Corner: Sleep Safety and Suffocation Prevention Tips

How to Get Baby Ready for Sleep

1. Dress baby in a wearable blanket, onesie, or similar clothing for every sleep. A loose blanket could cover [baby's airway](#) or make their body temperature too high.
2. Place babies on their backs for naps and at night until they are 1 year old. Once babies can roll back and forth from their back to their tummy on their own, you can leave them in whatever position they like.

How to Create a Safe Place for Baby to Sleep

1. Choose a firm mattress and fitted sheet for baby's crib. Remove toys, blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and other accessories from the crib.
2. Share your room, not your bed. Place the baby's crib or bassinet in your bedroom instead of letting the baby sleep in the same bed with you.
3. Practice safe sleep for naps and at night. Even after late-night feedings, return the baby to their own crib or bassinet before you are ready to go to sleep.

How to Choose a Crib for Baby

1. Choose a crib that was made after 2011. If you are not using a new crib, check the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to make sure it meets the latest safety requirements.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to assemble your crib. Make sure to complete and submit the product registration card to learn about any recalls or safety updates.
3. Check for recalls. When [searching for recalls on the CPSC website](#), type "crib" or the brand name in the search box.

[Article from Safe Kids Worldwide.](#)