

## Community in Unity

**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.

**THE OFFICE OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION** encourages families, friends, and neighbors to join hands and resources in building a community in unity.

**DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL** and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to work together in raising awareness and to develop strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.



APRIL IS **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**  
**AWARENESS MONTH**



“ In 2014, there were almost 500,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in California.

“ California has the highest rate of reported child abuse and neglect cases among the ten largest states.

“ On average, more than 100 children die each year in California as a result of abuse or neglect.

Show your support and donate to the State Children's Trust Fund



California Department of Social Services  
The Office of Child Abuse Prevention  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/>



# Let's Make a Difference!

We would like to share some ways that you can become more involved in helping children and families in your community. With the help of individuals, families and organizations, we can raise awareness, lower the risk factors, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

## HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS GET INVOLVED?

- Request a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month to be made by local officials.
- Hold a blue ribbon campaign.
- Involve local faith communities in supporting children and families.
- Team up with a local professional or semi-professional sports franchise to raise awareness.
- Host a community event to raise awareness.
- Invite a local celebrity or policy maker to your event.
- Distribute a resource guide for parents. [www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/](http://www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/)
- Send out a press release or feature story to your local newspaper or TV/radio stations.
- Offer a workshop on positive parenting as a way to prevent child abuse.

## HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

- Volunteer at an organization providing family support services.
- Start a family group, where parents can socialize and offer support to one another.
- Plant blue pinwheels in your garden to raise awareness and honor victims of child abuse.
- Plan a special day with your family to bond and honor one another.
- Advocate for children and families within local systems.
- Donate to the State Children's Trust Fund.
- Start a play group in your community. Invite other families to meet once a week for the children to play and the parents to have some social interaction.

There are many ways that we can raise awareness and protect children. These activities can not only be accomplished during the month of April, but throughout the entire year.

What are you waiting for?

