

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of

 CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention month, and it is a time for family support programs and communities to come together to raise awareness of the efforts being made to prevent child abuse and neglect. Throughout the month family support programs will plan events and prepare activities for families and community members.

Role of Family Support Programs

Family support programs play an important role in spreading awareness about National Child Abuse and Prevention Month. Their role is crucial in educating the public about the issue of child abuse and neglect. Family support professionals provide resources, parent support, build community connections, and work to strengthen family bonds. By focusing on these prevention efforts, family support professionals can work to support parents to provide the care and nurturing their children need.

Role of the Community

In addition to family support programs, there is also a collective responsibility that lies within the local community. Community programs not only help to

promote and educate the public about child abuse and neglect, but they also provide much needed support and resources that help the families who live in the community. Community programs such as child advocacy, financial assistance, mental health services, parenting groups, and youth centers all help to provide support to the different stresses that families face.

Educating Communities About the Signs of Child Abuse

Community programs and family support programs can educate the public about preventing child abuse and neglect by hosting workshops that provide information to anyone in the community about the signs of child abuse and neglect and ways to prevent it. These programs can collaborate with other each other and partner together to organize events, activities, and handing out materials.

They can also participate in social media campaigns and use platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. They can post facts, infographics, and videos about child abuse prevention.

Child Abuse Prevention Activities and Events

Community programs and family support programs can create several activities for families and their children that focus on child abuse prevention. Some programs have developed events such as family fun days that have games and arts and crafts that children and their families can work on together. Programs can also hold a Family Support Resource Fair, so community members and families can learn about the local services that are available in the area.

Community and family serving professionals can make a variety of efforts to spread awareness about child abuse prevention. Through their efforts to create awareness, these professionals are working towards building a stronger and safer environment for children and their families.

Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) Corner

Research Brief from Child Welfare Information Gateway

Families who experience poverty are more likely to be reported to child welfare authorities for allegations of abuse or neglect. [“Separating Poverty from Neglect in Child Welfare”](#) explores this concern. It prompts us to think about broadening prevention strategies from a focus on the family level to a community level responsibility.

Understanding that these are uncertain economic times, let’s consider how everyone in the community can collaborate to create stronger support systems as well as more opportunities for families to grow wealth.

Register Now



Social Connections That Strengthen Us

2025 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Conference
April 2-4 | King of Prussia

PAT staff: Plan to attend the PAT Annual Meeting on April 2 at 1:00 PM.

CTF staff: Plan to attend the CTF Annual Meeting on April 4 at 12:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Opening Reception on April 2 at 5:30 PM.

[View conference information and registration.](#)



Parents as Teachers Place

Parents as Teachers National Center Series

Even if you were not able to join previous webinars, consider joining the last two of the series. Each webinar will feature an affiliate or two that to share their expertise and experience.

[Register for PAT National Center series.](#)

[Listen to the Parents as Teachers Podcast](#)

Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Courses

[Virtual PAT Foundational and Model Implementation March 24-April 4](#)

Time: 9:00 AM ET

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

[Virtual PAT Foundational March 24-April 1](#)

Time: 9:00 AM ET

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

Upcoming Events

Parent Café Learning Community
March 12, 1:00 PM

Parents as Teachers Parent Educator Learning Community, March 20, 9:30 AM

Family Support Webinar: Best Practices for Engaging Male Caregivers, May 7



Now may be a good time to revisit multiple strategies to connect with families in a time of crisis from the Child Welfare Information Gateway. [“Supporting Child, Caregiver and Family Well-being in Times of Crisis: Strategies Promote Effective Phone and Virtual Engagement.”](#)



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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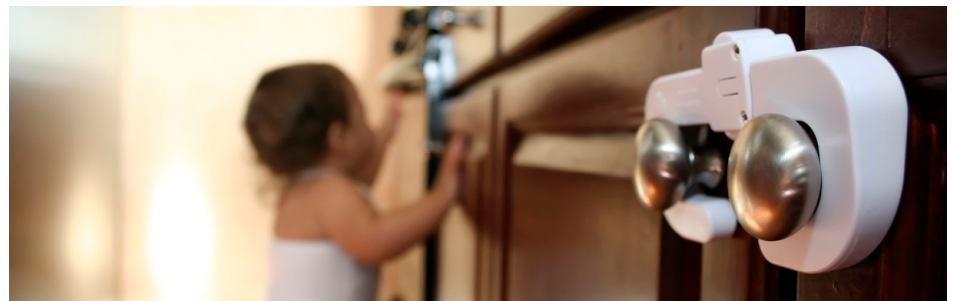
[Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund](#)

[Pennsylvania Strengthening Families](#)

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities

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CenterForSchoolsAndCommunities.org



Safe Kids Corner

2025 National Poison Prevention Week is March 16-22

Let's face it, sometimes kids get into things that they probably shouldn't. Everyday household items such as cleaning products and personal care products can be harmful to kids. Here are a few poison prevention tips to keep little explorers from finding their way into household items that could be dangerous.

Top Tips to Prevent Poisoning

- 1. Store household products safely to prevent poisoning.** Young kids are often eye level with items under the kitchen and bathroom sinks, so make sure household cleaning products and personal care products up and away, out of children's reach and sight.
- 2. Keep all household cleaning products in their original containers.** Also, when buying products, look for child-resistant containers to help prevent poisoning to children.
- 3. Read and follow product labels.** Check for ingredients that can be harmful to kids and make sure you use and store products according to the label. Kids can get into things quickly, so remember not to leave cleaning products or personal care products unattended while you are using them.
- 4. Remember products that might be harmful to kids.** Check your home for products like cleaning supplies, [liquid laundry packets](#), personal care products, plants, pesticides, alcohol, and [medicine](#).
- 5. Save the Poison Help number in your phone and post it visibly at home: 800-222-1222.** Specialists at poison control centers provide free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day. They can answer questions and help with poison emergencies.

[View full article and more poison prevention resources on Safe Kids' website.](#)

[Download Six Steps to Childproofing PDF flyer.](#)

