National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Making Meaningful Connections
Why is National Child Abuse Prevention Month so important?

• In FFY 2012, more than 600,000 children were victims of child abuse and neglect.
• In FFY 2012, 50 states reported that more than one-quarter (26.8% or 181,493) of victims were younger than 3 years.
• Twenty percent (19.9%) of victims were in the age group of 3–5 years.
Why is National Child Abuse Prevention Month so Important?

• More than three-quarters (78.3%) of victims were neglected,
• 18.3 percent were physically abused, and
• 9.3 percent were sexually abused
• Of child fatalities, 69.9 percent suffered neglect either exclusively or in combination with other maltreatment types.
Why is National Child Abuse Prevention Month so Important?

• Preventing child abuse and neglect is not something that can be done by one system, agency or one person, it is a community responsibility.
Why is National Child Abuse Prevention Month so Important?

- It is important that communities work together to prevent child abuse and neglect, to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families and make meaningful connections.
The Importance of Teachers

• Having a positive relationship with the adult such as a teacher can enhance the resiliency of children who are at-risk for being abused/neglect or have already been abused or in a home where no maltreatment occurs but the family is experiencing some problems.
The Importance of Teachers

• The typical school day for children is about six hours. This means that most children spend as many as 1600 hours per year in school.
What does the theme “Making Meaningful Connections” mean?
What does “Making Meaningful Connections” mean?

• Connecting with families before the abuse and neglect occurs.
• Reaching out and providing support to children and families before abuse and neglect.
• Engaging parents/caregivers to determine if they need services and referring them to the appropriate agency.
• Partnering with other systems (local social services, education, juvenile, health and mental health) to provide unified support.
How to Connect with Parents and Caregivers

• Bring in community representatives at PTSA Meetings to speak on child abuse prevention.
• Use Parent Teacher Conference time to connect, listen and encourage the parent/caregiver.
• Provide community-based family mentoring services to strengthen family relationships.
• Host a parent-led communitywide “Parents Day” that focuses on the protective factors.
• Organize workshops to teach parents how to access services to meet their families’ needs.
• Create opportunities for parents to volunteer in after-school programs, mentoring programs, job fair and other events.
How to Connect with Parents and Caregivers

- Ask experienced parent leaders to serve as mentors for families.
- Develop a community multi-disciplinary team to ensure integrated assessment, planning and services are provided to the children and families.
- Maintain a small emergency clothes closet for children.
- Offer before and after school care.
- Make the school available for support group meetings.
Partnering with Other Systems
Partnering with Other Systems

• Schedule joint trainings with staff about protective factors and child abuse prevention and how this information can be incorporated into their work with parents.

• Seek opportunities to sponsor joint events with other agencies.

• Partner with a child welfare agencies to offer onsite services once a week, month or quarterly.
Resources
FRIENDS, the National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), provides training and technical assistance to Federally funded CBCAP Programs. This site serves as a resource to those programs and to the rest of the Child Abuse Prevention community.

FRIENDS is an acronym for...
Family Resource Information, Education and Network Development Services

What’s New?
Effective Collaborations in CBCAP
ACEs in Prevention

Check out FRIENDS new Elearning Courses in

What We Do:
FRIENDS provides targeted training and technical assistance to CBCAP State Lead Agencies to build capacity in the full array of CBCAP program requirements including:

FRIENDS NRC for CBCAP
http://friendsnrc.org/
About Us

**Child Welfare Information Gateway** connects child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families. We feature the latest on topics from prevention to permanency, including child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption.

**Who we are and what we do**

- How to report child abuse or neglect
- Find help with a personal situation
Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect

https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/
School Based Prevention Programs

https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/programs/types/schoolbased.cfm
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/
What’s Inside:

- Protective Factors Approaches to Promoting Wellbeing
- Working with Families Using the Protective Factors
- Engage Your Community
- Tips for Working with Specific Groups
- Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect
- Parent Tip sheets
- Activity Calendars
The Role of Educators in Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect

What’s Inside:

- Identifying Reasons Why Educators are Concerned About Child Abuse & Neglect
- Recognizing Child Abuse & Neglect
- Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect
- Providing Support After The Report
- Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect


What’s Inside:

What is Child Welfare?

How Can Educators Assist Child Welfare Agencies and Families

How Can Child Welfare Workers Assist Educators

Resources

School-Based Child Maltreatment Programs
Synthesis of Lessons Learned

What’s Inside:
Primary Prevention Services/Activities

Intervention-Related Services

Lessons Learned
General Recommendations

Project Staffing

Collaboration with Schools

Teacher Training

Direct Services

Parent Engagement and Retention in Parent Education
Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide. The organization promotes that vision through a network of chapters in 50 states and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visiting sites in 39 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the

Prevent Child Abuse America
http://www.preventchildabuse.org/index.php
National Alliance
Children’s Trust & Prevention Funds
http://www.ctfalliance.org/
Questions/ Comments
CONTACT INFORMATION

Rosie Gomez
Child Welfare Program Specialist
Office on Child Abuse and Neglect
Administration for Children and Families, ACYF, CB
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 205-7403
Rosie.Gomez@acf.hhs.gov

Sharon McKinley
Program Manager
Prevention and Child Protection
Child Welfare Information Gateway
(703) 225-2173
smckinley@childwelfare.gov