



MEDIA RELEASE

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We All Can Play a Part in Making Meaningful Connections April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, United4Children encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Missouri and Illinois a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents, teachers, and care-givers have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for children, we can help promote children's social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities.

Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families are promoted. The six protective factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development • Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional developmental well-being

“April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” said Dawn Winkler, Executive Director, “Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.”

In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy – Strengthening Families have created Making Meaningful Connections 2015 Resource Guide. The guide, designed for service providers who work throughout the community to strengthen families, is available on Information Gateway's website:

<https://childwelfare.com/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resource-guide/>

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April, and throughout the year, contact us.

United4Children.org

To improve quality and accessibility to services for children and youth by empowering and inspiring families, professionals and the community.