

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Help Us Build Awareness and Protect Children

Every April, people across the country concentrate their efforts to raise awareness of the terrible tragedy of child abuse and to promote specific ways we can all help to prevent these occurrences in our communities. Our theme this year is ***Turning Choices Into Change...Making a Difference for Children!*** As one of the organizations promoting this observance in Illinois, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois encourages you to take part in this year's activities.

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and other statewide organizations, has developed the April 2007 Child Abuse Prevention Month calendar of events. This calendar contains a variety of observances that will occur across the state. Please make a point to attend the activities in your area.

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois would like to thank the organizations who participated on the Child Abuse Prevention Month state coordinating committee and in the Chicago, Central, and Southern planning sub-committees:

Adolescent Health Center	Illinois Department of Human Services
CASA Franklin County	Illinois Department of Public Health
Central Christian Church	Illinois Family Partnership Network
Chicago Child Advocacy Center	Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council
Child Advocacy Centers of Illinois	Illinois Head Start
Child Care Association	Illinois Office of Attorney General
Children's Home and Aid	Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
Family Support America	Kids Hope United
Family Violence Coordination Council	Near North/Winfield Moody
Family Violence Prevention Council	Parents Care & Share of Illinois
Fourth Presbyterian Church	Perry/Jackson Child Advocacy Center
Illinois Federation of Families	Prevent Child Abuse America
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Prevention First
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Regional Office of Education
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Save Abandoned Babies Foundation
Illinois Department on Aging	Southern Illinois Healthcare
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	Strengthening Families Illinois
	Voices for Illinois Children

The committees also included Prevent Child Abuse Illinois staff: Peggy Carey, Michele Chalifoux, Elaine Duensing, BeLinda Farr, Tamara Guy, Roy Harley, Linda Henderson, Robert Hollis, Dave Johnson, Kelly Jones, Lori Large, Denise McCaffrey, Tammy Queen, Lara Reddin, Mary Salisbury, Jennifer Samartano, Trina Stremsterfer, Theresa Williams and Tarra Winters.



Events in Northern Illinois

- March 24** **23rd Annual Child Fair (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**
This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the Child Fair. There will be hands-on activities, games, and crafts for children. Exhibitors will be on hand to showcase their organization or business. Gieson Motor Sports, a safety pavilion and entertainment will be provided. Entry into the child fair is free. Over 1000 attended last year. **Sponsor:** Sauk Valley Community College and various community sponsors. **Location:** Sauk Valley Community College. **Contact info:** Mary Sue Shull at 815-284-7796 ext. 2119, mary.shull@lssi.org; or Kari Schmidt at 815-626-7333, kari.schmidt@lssi.org.
- March 30** **Children Exposed to Violence Conference**
Keynote speakers and breakout sessions. Visit www.childabuseqc.org to learn more. **Sponsor:** Child Abuse Council, Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center, Safe From the Start, Eastern Iowa Community College District. **Location:** La Quinta Hotel – Davenport, IA. **Contact info:** Paula Finch at 333-4000 ext 15.
- March 31** **Tenth Annual Blue Ribbon Luncheon & Fashion Show (Noon)**
Fashion show and luncheon, including raffle baskets and silent auction to raise money for PCA Illinois. Tickets are \$35 each. **Sponsor:** GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. **Location:** Drury Lane Ballroom, 100 Drury Lane Drive, Oakbrook, IL. **Contact info:** Betty Koran at georgekoran@aol.com or Karen Meyer at kmeyer5396@aol.com.
- April 1 - 30** **Blue Ribbon Trees to Prevent Child Abuse**
Trees located in park along the busiest street in town will be completely covered with blue ribbons. In front of the trees will be a sign with statistics. **Sponsor:** Round Lake Area Exchange Club. **Location:** Gateway Park, Round Lake Beach, IL. **Contact info:** Judy Armstrong at 847-526-4344 or email: heyjude997@aol.com.
- Lunch and Learn**
Volunteers will be giving presentations on child abuse prevention, mandated reporters training, managing stress, building high self esteem, and peaceful approach to parenting. **Location:** Varies. **Contact info:** Linda Patsche at 309-764-7017 x 210 or lindap@childabuseqc.org.
- Love Is Not Enough to Keep Your Family Strong Parent Cafes**
Across Illinois, parents are engaging in lively, real conversations to keep their family strong. These conversations are called parent cafes. **Sponsor:** Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education Illinois, DCFS, Illinois Family Partnership Network. **Location:** Varies. Typically in an early childhood center. **Contact info:** Guy Schingoethe at 312-421-5200 ext 25.
- April 2** **Blue Bow Kick Off**
Prayer service, media event and ribbon tying. **Sponsor:** Children's Home & Aid **Location:** Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Sue Walton at 847-397-6181 or swalt811@aol.com.
- April 2** **Chicago Child Abuse Prevention Month Media Launch**
Media launch to announce Child Abuse Prevention Month, which will include a prayer service, special speakers, blue ribbon ceremony and awards. **Sponsor:** Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services **Location:** Fourth Presbyterian Church, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. **Contact Info:** Jennifer Samartano at jsmartano@preventchildabuseillinois.org or 630-790-6869; or Michele Chalifoux at 773-363-1070 or mchalifoux@preventchildabuseillinois.org.
- April 2, 5 & 6** **Home Safe Home**
Information table with child abuse and domestic violence information, agency information; and prevent child abuse blue wrist bands and magnets for purchase to support PCA Illinois. **Sponsor:** Northern Illinois University, Child Development Lab at NIU. **Location:** Gabel, Nill, DeKalb, IL. **Contact info:** Karen Kutzun at 815-753-1150 (M,TH,F) or email kutznerkaren@yahoo.com.

- April 3** **Save Abandoned Babies Day Art Contest (2 p.m.)**
In celebration of the new law which mandates that the Safe Haven Act be taught as a part of health education to all middle and high school students, the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is sponsoring a poster contest. Chicago Public School students who submit a poster are asked to reflect on the theme “Safe baby, safe parent, safe choice, safe haven.” Entries will be judged by juried artists. 12 posters will be displayed at the Thompson Center, and three winners and their schools will be given monetary awards. **Sponsor:** Save Abandoned Babies Foundation. **Location:** James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Jessica Martinez at 312-819-5874 or jmartinez@cleverideas.com.
- Blue Bow Ribbon Tying Ceremony (5 p.m.)**
Sponsor: Englewood Child & Family Center. **Location:** 63rd & Marshfield, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Ayanna Smith at 312-808-0160 ext: 205.
- Palatine Township Ribbon Tying Ceremony**
Blue bows will be tied on the trees lining Quentin and Illinois Avenue (Township Building). **Sponsor:** Parent’s Care and Share Program. **Location:** 721 S Quentin RD (Palatine). **Contact info:** Earl Kloppmann at 847-991-1030 or ekloppma@nc.chasi.org.
- April 4** **Prevent Child Abuse Poster Contest**
3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will draw a picture of “what family means to me.” Winners from each grade will receive a \$20 Toys R Us Gift Certificate and an award certificate. **Sponsor:** VNA of Fox Valley – Healthy Families. **Location:** Elementary Schools in Aurora, IL. **Contact info:** Kit Patterson at 630-264-7294 or kpatterson@vnafoxvalley.com.
- April 4 & 5** **Child Abuse & Neglect: The Interdisciplinary Approach**
This two day symposium aims to help medical and other professionals expand their knowledge about child maltreatment, particularly the impact of abuse and neglect on children, with a focus on working interdisciplinary. Registration is \$100 for physicians and \$50 for other professionals, and CME credits will be provided. **Sponsor:** Children’s Memorial Hospital Protective Services team and Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. **Location:** Northwestern Memorial Hospital Conference center, 3rd Floor, 251 E Huron, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Ramona Godbole at 773-880-4322 or rgodbole@childrensmemorial.org.
- April 6** **PNRC Ribbon Tying Event**
Members of Rolling Meadow Parents Care & Share Support Group will tie blue bows on trees at the Police Neighborhood Resource Center. Rolling Meadows Mayor and media will be invited. **Sponsor:** Parent’s Care & Share. **Location:** Police Neighborhood Resource Center, 2272 Algonquin Parkway, Rolling Meadows, IL. **Contact info:** Earl Kloppmann at 847-991-1030 or ekloppma@nc.chasi.org.
- April 10** **Hands Around the Courthouse**
A guest speaker will discuss ways to raise community awareness and ways of prevention and participants will encircle the courthouse. **Sponsor:** Children’s Home & Aid, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, and the Stephenson County Health Department. **Location:** Stephenson County Courthouse. **Contact info:** Dana Keim at 815-599-8404 or Vershon Allen at 815-962-1043 or veallen@nw.chasi.org.
- April 11** **Prevent Child Abuse Seminar (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**
Group discussion regarding the importance of recognizing the signs and symptoms of abuse as well as the importance of reporting suspected abuse. How to relieve stress in a positive manner will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** Health and Family Services Department. **Location:** 4510 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Elise Bailey at 773-624-8815 or embolden@cul-chicago.org; or Bertha Mitchell-Smith at 773-624-8801 or bmitchell2cul-chicago.org.
- April 12** **Ribbon Pinning (3:30 p.m.)**
Blue bow pinning ceremony. **Sponsor:** Women of Power. **Location:** 3026 S California, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Lisa Cunningham at 773-869-7877.

April 12 **Caring for the Next Generation: Partnering to Prevent Abuse (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.)**
The primary audience for this conference is physicians, nurses, allied health care providers, police, paramedics, and anyone who cares for children. Conference is free of charge. Space is limited. To register call 630-933-4576. **Sponsor:** Central DuPage Hospital. **Location:** Central DuPage Hospital, 25 N. Winfield Road, Winfield, IL. **Contact info:** Rita Brennan at 630-933-6459 or rita_brennan@cdh.org.

April 13 **Caring for the Next Generation: Partnering to Prevent Abuse (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**
The primary audience for this conference is physicians, nurses, allied health care providers, police, paramedics, and anyone who cares for children. Conference is free of charge. Space is limited. To register call 630-933-4576. **Sponsor:** Central DuPage Hospital. **Location:** Central DuPage Hospital, 25 N. Winfield Road, Winfield, IL. **Contact info:** Rita Brennan at 630-933-6459 or rita_brennan@cdh.org.

April 17 **Building Stronger Families: Protecting Their Dreams – Community Training (9 a.m. - Noon)**
Community-wide caregiver seminar focusing on ways to prevent children from being sexually abused, identify sexual abuse in young children, and how to obtain treatment. There will also be a discussion on breaking the cycle of abuse in families. **Sponsor:** Chicago Department of Public Health-Greater Westside of Chicago Early Childhood Network, Sinai Community Institute – Parent University, Healthy Families, Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, SGA Youth and Family Service, and DCFS. **Location:** Sinai Community Institute, 2653 W Ogden, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Xochitl Martirosyan at 773-257-2562.

Hands Around the Court House

A guest speaker will discuss ways to raise community awareness and ways to prevent abuse. Participants will also encircle the courthouse. **Sponsor:** Children’s Home & Aid, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, General Federation of Women’s Clubs – Savanna Chapter and the Carroll County Child Abuse Coalition. **Location:** Mt. Carroll County Courthouse. **Contact info:** Jane Shaw at 815-275-8960 or Vershon Allen at 815-962-1043 or Veallen@nw.chasi.com.

April 19 **Hands Around the Court House**

Participants will gather outside the courthouse to hear the chief judge speak and then encircle the courthouse for a moment of silence in honor of victims of child abuse and neglect. **Sponsor:** CASA Kane County. **Location:** Kane County Courthouse. **Contact info:** Cortney Laverty at 630-444-3111 or claverty@casakanecounty.org.

Hands Around the Court House (HATCH) (12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

A community awareness event to raise awareness about child abuse and sexual assault. **Sponsor:** Grundy County Community Awareness Committee. **Location:** Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E Washington, Morris, IL. **Contact info:** Sondra Anderson at 815-431-0630 or Sondra.anderson@mchsi.com.

Hands Around the Court House (HATCH) (12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

A community awareness event to raise awareness about child abuse and sexual assault. **Sponsor:** LaSalle County Community Awareness Committee. **Location:** LaSalle County Downtown Courthouse (Northside), 119 W Madison, Ottawa, IL. **Contact info:** Sondra Anderson at 815-431-0630 or Sondra.anderson@mchsi.com.

Speak Out for Young Children at the State Capitol! Early Childhood Lobby Day

Early childhood supporters are encouraged to attend. Background materials, training, and a box lunch will be provided. Transportation from Chicago to Springfield will also be provided. If you are unable to attend, please pass this date on to others who you know would like to voice their opinion. **Sponsor:** Ounce of Prevention Fund and Healthy Families Illinois. **Location:** Springfield, IL. **Contact info and RSVP:** Rashanda Perryman at 312-922-3863 or rperryman@ounceofprevention.org.

Hands Around the Court House

A guest speaker will discuss ways to raise community awareness and ways to prevent child abuse. Participants will also encircle the courthouse. **Sponsor:** Children’s Home & Aid and Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. **Location:** DeKalb County Courthouse **Contact info:** Peggy Carey at 815-761-7692 or Vershon Allen at 815-962-1043 or veallen@nw.chasi.org.

April 20 **Hands Around the Court House (4 p.m.)**

A display of the silent witness project, a gathering of community for hands around the courthouse, with a brief presentation by council chairperson and Judge Rosemary Collins. **Sponsor:** CHASI/17th Judicial Circuit Court Family Violence Coordinating Council. **Location:** 400 W State St., Rockford, IL. **Contact info:** Andrea Carlson at 815-987-2527 or at acarlson@co.winnebago.il.us.

April 20

Hands Around the Court House (12:15 p.m.)

A guest speaker will discuss ways to raise community awareness and ways to prevent child abuse. Participants will also encircle the courthouse. **Sponsor:** Children's Home & Aid, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and 17th Circuit **Location:** Winnebago County Courthouse. **Contact info:** Andrea Carlson at 815-987-2525 or Vershon Allen at 815-962-1043 or veallen@nw.chasi.org.

From The Heart of A Child

A brief theatrical presentation which depicts the different forms of child abuse. Community youth will participate in the planning and presentation of this activity. **Sponsor:** The Link & Option Center, Inc. **Location:** 15652 Homan Ave, Markham, IL. **Contact info:** Twin Green at 708-331-4880 or twingreen@link-option.com.

Perry Memorial Hospital "Wear Blue for Kids"

Hospital employees are encouraged to wear blue to raise awareness to make our children a priority. Bookmarks and pinwheels will be given to all wearing blue. Educational materials will be in three areas the whole month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. **Sponsor:** Perry Memorial Hospital – Women's Healthcare Unit. **Location:** Perry Memorial Hospital, 530 Park Avenue East, Princeton, IL. **Contact info:** Linda Dinges at 815-876-2220 or at ldinges@perryhospital.org.

Art Auction

Local Art Auction of roughly 150 pieces of art; all original oils, watercolors, signed and numbered limited editions and lithographs. All are framed and matted with custom mats and frames. The collections include an exciting mix of art by established artists, along with undiscovered artists and art publishers. Tickets are \$10 and will include appetizers and a chance at the door prizes. 100% of the proceeds will go to the prevention of child abuse. **Sponsor:** Exchange Club of Grayslake. **Location:** University Center Campus, Grayslake, IL. **Contact info:** Wendy Petera, Art Auction Chair at 847-757-4767 or wenweb210@ameritech.net.

April 21

Take a Step for Kids

This event is a 5K/10K walk/run with funds raised going to subsidize the costs of therapy for our clients that do not have the resources to do so on their own. This is also a vehicle for making the reality of child abuse known. Visit www.takeastepforkids.org. **Sponsor:** Community Youth Network. **Location:** Independence Grove Preserve, Libertyville, IL. **Contact info:** Cindy Schultz at 847-548-6000 x 11 or cyncindy@tds.net.

Wrigley Start Early Run

Wrigley Start Early Run a 5K/10K Run and Walk benefiting Voices for Illinois Children and Prevent Child Abuse America. Visit www.startearlyrun.com for more information. **Sponsor:** Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. **Location:** Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** 773-868-3010.

April 22

Designs for Hope – Blue Ribbon Fashion Show (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

The Blue Ribbon Committee has organized its 4th Annual Fashion Show to raise awareness of child abuse and raise funds for child abuse prevention programs. **Sponsor:** Kids Hope United. **Location:** The Lehmann Mansion, Lake Villa, IL. **Contact info:** Joyce Heneberry at 847-245-6503 or jheneberry@kidshopeunited.org.

April 23

Blue Bow Pinning

Bow pinning ceremony. **Sponsor:** Riverdale Resource Center, **Location:** 13725 Wabash. **Contact info:** Myrna Thompson at 708-841-7054.

April 24

"When in Doubt, Blow Bubbles: The Clinical Application of Developmental Activities"

Workshop that will help link theory of specific assessment findings to clinical practice in children birth to age three. **Sponsor:** South Suburban Family Shelter. **Location:** Double Tree, Alsip, IL. **Contact info:** Melissa Strick at 708-798-7737, ext 222 or mstrick@ssfs1.org; or Giselle Doyle at 708-371-6730, ext. 2 or gdoyle@ssfs1.org.

April 25

Making the Connection: Emerging Service Models for Children Exposed to Violence

The Pre-conference Institute of the Chicago Safe Start Incubator Conference will be an educational experience geared toward laying the foundation of the impacts that violence has on young children and building a framework for how multiple systems, including domestic violence, home day care, faith, mental health and substance abuse, interface to service children and families. This full-day session will provide workshop discussions, information on children's exposure to violence, resources, and networking opportunities. Registration is necessary and on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Sponsor:** Chicago Safe Start **Location:** Unknown at this time. **Contact info:** Erica B. Davis at 312-747-9406 or Davis_Erica@cdph.org.

April 25

Hands Across Englewood

The purpose of this event is to increase awareness of issues surrounding children exposed to violence by reaching out to all community entities to get involved in this event. **Sponsor:** IVPA. **Location:** Englewood Community. **Contact info:** Loretta Barniffe at 773-962-0366 or Loretta.barriffe@famkily-focus.org.

Prevent Child Abuse Seminar (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

Group discussion regarding the importance of recognizing the signs and symptoms of abuse as well as the importance of reporting suspected abuse. How to relieve stress in a positive manner will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** Health & Family Services Department. **Location:** 4510 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Elise Bailey at 773-624-8815 or embolden@cul-chicago.org; or Bertha Mitchell-Smith at 773-624-8801 or bmittchell2cul-chicago.org.

April 26

Building Stronger Families: Protecting Their Dreams – Provider Training (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

All day provider training on child sexual abuse and incest. Specialists will be covering signs and symptoms, developing sound communication strategies with clients to be able to discuss the topic, and identifying referrals and resources for providers to utilize in the community. **Sponsor:** Chicago Dept. of Public Health, SGA Youth and Family Services, Westside of Chicago Early Childhood Network, Sinai Community Institute, Healthy Families, Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, and DCFS. **Location:** Chicago Police Dept., 10th Dist., 3315 W Ogden Ave, Chicago, IL. **Contact info:** Xochitl Martirosyan at 773-257-2562 or martirosyan_xochitl@cdph.org.

A Celebration of the Young Child 2007

An bilingual educational community event to promote the care of pregnant women and children ages birth to five years old and their families. **Sponsor:** All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network – Cicero. **Location:** Unity Jr. High School, 2115 S. 54th St., Cicero, IL. **Contact info:** Rosalind Larsen, Network Coordinator at 708-492-2095 or rlarsen@cookcountygov.com.

A Celebration of Family

A banquet to honor Healthy Families participants and all participants that have graduated from the program. The ceremony will include a presentation of awards to families. **Sponsor:** VNA of Fox Valley – Healthy Families. **Location:** Long Island Sound, Aurora, IL. **Contact info:** Kit Patterson at 630-264-7294 or kpatterson@vnafoxvalley.com.

Illinois Respite Coalition Annual Summit

One-day educational conference designed for both caregivers and respite providers from throughout the state. **Sponsor:** Illinois Respite Coalition. **Location:** The Oaks Hotel and Conference center 300. S. Frontage Rd, Burr Ridge, IL. **Contact info:** Victoria N. Nahas at 312-949-9280 or IllinoisRespiteCoord.VNahas@gmail.com.

Awareness/Education for School Nurses & Social Workers

Participants will learn about the signs/symptoms of child abuse, how to talk to a child if abuse is suspected, information about reporting, and other educational information about child abuse and neglect. **Sponsor:** Youth Service Bureau (YSB) **Location:** YSB: 101 S. Jefferson St., Woodstock, IL. **Contact info:** Janice Connelly at 815-338-7360 or jconnelly@ysb4kids.org.

April 28

“Dia del Nino” (10 a.m. - Noon)

This event includes a presentation about fatherhood and the importance of the interaction between parents and children, as well as activities and games for children. **Sponsor:** La Voz Latina. **Location:** 412 Market St., Rockford, IL. **Contact info:** Patricia Gomez or Margarita Miramontes at 815-965-5784 or pasos@lavozeatrina_rkf.org.

April 29

Spring into Action Annual Brunch

Family fundraiser to benefit victims of child abuse. Food, fun, silent auction, games, and face painting. **Sponsor:** Friends of the DuPage Children’s Advocacy Center. **Location:** Hyatt Lodge, Oakbrook, IL. **Contact info:** FDCCC information line at 630-689-4023.

Friends of Child Advocacy Benefit (3 p.m. - 5 p.m)

Special reception to help honor those who fight for children’s advocacy and benefit to meet the needs of the hundreds of abused children in our community. **Sponsor:** Friends of Child Advocacy. **Location:** Isabella’s Estiatorio, 330 West State Street, Geneva, IL. **Contact info:** Kerry Malinger at 630-907-0378 or kerrymalinger@aol.com.

April 30 **Blue Bow Ceremony**
Blue Bow ceremony and plaque dedicated by Carpentersville Parents Care & Share support group. **Sponsor:** Parents Care & Share. **Location:** 116 Carpenter Blvd., Carpentersville, IL. **Contact info:** Earl Kloppmann at 847-991-1030 or ekloppma@nc.chasi.org.

Events in Central Illinois

April 1 - 30 **Blue Ribbon Dissemination & Continued Advocacy & Mentoring to Children in Need**
Advocates currently serving at risk youth in Menard, Mason, Logan and Christian Counties – both at school and in their homes and communities – will distribute blue ribbons prepared by the Blue Ribbon Committee to local businesses and school districts. Additionally, the Blue Ribbon Committee’s work with children and families in need will continue throughout the month of April. **Sponsor:** Rural Family Services. **Location:** Menard, Mason, Logan and Christian counties. **Contact info:** Rory Stoller at 217-899-3352 or rstoller1@yahoo.com.

Love Is Not Enough to Keep Your Family Strong Parent Cafes

Across Illinois parents are engaging in lively, real conversations to keep their family strong. These conversations are called parent cafes. **Sponsor:** Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education Illinois, DCFS, Illinois Family Partnership Network. **Location:** Varies, typically in an early childhood center. **Contact info:** Guy Schingoethe at 312-421-5200 ext 25.

Blue Ribbon Campaign

The Safe from the Start Public Awareness Committee will place blue ribbons and information cards in social service agencies and offices throughout Macon County. **Sponsor:** Macon County Safe From the Start, and the Macon County Child Advocacy Center. **Location:** Macon County. **Contact info:** Pam Burkhart or Jean Moore at 217-422-6294 or mccac4kids@AOL.com.

April 2, 4, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 & 30 **Diaper Pantry**
Participants will be provided with prevention literature and blue ribbons to aid in education. **Sponsor:** The Parent Place. **Location:** The Parent Place, Springfield, IL. **Contact info:** Jilnita Johnson at 217-546-5257 or theparentplace.jilnita@insightbb.com.

April 2 **Central Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Month Media Launch**
Media launch to announce Child Abuse Prevention Month, which will include resource tables, awards, free pinwheels and blue ribbons and children’s activities. **Sponsor:** Prevent Child Abuse Illinois & Illinois Department of Children and Family Services **Location:** KICKS Family Entertainment Center, 2744 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL. **Contact Info:** Mary Salisbury at msalisbury@preventchildabuseillinois or 217-522-1129.

Carole Peterson – Sticky Bubble Gum Concert (6:30 p.m.)

Family fun concert with Ms. Carole Peterson. **Sponsor:** Liberty Pre-K Program & Liberty Great Beginnings Program. **Location:** Liberty High School Gym, 505 N Park St., Liberty, IL. **Contact info:** Jan Poulter or Sharon Tenhouse at 217-645-3263 or poulterj@libertyschool.net.

April 3 **How to Help a Crying Baby (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**
This two hour workshop directed to child care providers will focus on how to cope with a crying baby. Shaken Baby Syndrome and ways to keep infants safe will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** West Central Child Care Connection **Location:** Rushville, IL. **Contact info:** Katie Bowen at 217-222-2550 or kbowen@lvcecc.com.

April 5 **Bringing the Pieces Together to Prevent Sexual Violence (5:30 p.m.)**
Community agencies will present a program to raise awareness about sexual violence in a Macon County and promote strategies for prevention. **Sponsor:** Macon County Child Advocacy center, Growing Strong, Dove, Safe from the Start & CASA. **Location:** Decatur Public Library, Decatur, IL. **Contact info:** Jean Moore at 217-422-6294 or mccac4kids@aol.com.

- April 5** **Living in Fear: The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)**
 A free prevention training that will help attendees understand the cycle of violence, the effects of domestic violence on children, the warning signs exhibited by children who have been exposed to domestic violence, and the basic skills to assist when working with exposed children of domestic violence. Registration REQUIRED. **Sponsor:** Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, TARGET, and Radio Shack. **Location:** Dove Auditorium, Prairie Heart Center, 619 E Mason St, Springfield, IL. **Contact info:** Denise McCaffrey at 217-522-1129.
- April 10** **Making Illinois Safer: Injury Prevention Training**
 Training topics include: Data Counts: Where to Find Injury-Related Data, Advocating for Injury Prevention, making Illinois Safer – the strategic plan for Illinois and Evaluating Your Injury Prevention Program. **Sponsor:** Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition, IPHA Injury Control and EMS Section. **Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL. **Contact info:** IPHA at 217-522-5687.
- April 12** **How to Help a Crying Baby (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**
 This two hour workshop directed to child care providers will focus on how to cope with a crying baby. Shaken Baby Syndrome and ways to keep infants safe will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** West Central Child Connection. **Location:** Quincy, IL. **Contact info:** Katie Bowen at 217-222-2550 or kbowen@lvcccc.com.
- Blue Bow Day**
 Family fun night. Attendees will hear community speakers and participate in parent/child activities with giveaways and prizes. **Sponsor:** Childrens Home & Aid and Parents Care & Share. **Location:** 403 S State St, Bloomington, IL. **Contact info:** Mendy Smith at 309-834-5031 or msmith@tcf.chasi.org.
- April 13** **Books Alive (5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)**
 Literacy event with storytelling, blue bow distribution and parent/club activities and book giveaways. **Sponsor:** ABC Group. **Location:** Western Ave. Community Center, 600 N Western Ave, Bloomington, IL. **Contact info:** Mendy Smith at 309-834-5231 or msmith@tct.chasi.org.
- “Somebody Loves Me” Have You Hugged Your Child Today?**
 On this day we will remind family members to show appropriate and much needed affection to their children. We will distribute stickers to parents who hug and to children to show others they have been hugged. We will encourage parents and other caring adults to write their children love letters as well. I love you because...The evening will end with a community wide “Family Date Night Dance.” **Sponsor:** Champaign Ford Regional Office of Education and La Comunidad Unida. **Location:** Community wide (Focus Community Day Care – Teen REACH Afterschool Programs and Freedom School families). **Contact info:** Vernessa Gipson at 217-355-5990 or vgipson@aol.com.
- April 12, 14, 18 & 23** **Kids Rights**
 Participants will be provided with prevention literature and blue ribbons. **Sponsor:** The Parent Place **Location:** The Parent Place, Springfield IL. **Contact info:** Anita Crews at 217-546-5257 or theparentplace@insightbb.com.
- April 17** **How to Help a Crying Baby (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**
 This two hour workshop directed to child care providers will focus on how to cope with a crying baby. Shaken Baby Syndrome and ways to keep infants safe will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** West Central Child Care Connection **Location:** Pittsfield, Illinois **Contact info:** Katie Bowen at (217) 222-2550 or kbowen@lvcccc.com.
- April 19** **Speak Out for Young Children at the State Capitol! Early Childhood Lobby Day**
 Early childhood supporters are encouraged to attend. Background materials, training, and a box lunch will be provided. Transportation from Chicago to Springfield will also be provided. If you are unable to attend, please pass this date on to others who you know would like to voice their opinion. **Sponsor:** Ounce of Prevention Fund and Healthy Families Illinois. **Location:** Springfield, IL. **Contact info and RSVP:** Rashanda Perryman at 312-922-3863 or rperryman@ounceofprevention.org.
- April 19 & 26** **123 Magic**
 Parents participating in this appropriate discipline class will receive prevention literature and blue ribbons. **Sponsor:** The Parent Place. **Location:** The Parent Place, Springfield IL. **Contact info:** Jilnita Johnson at 217-546-5257 or theparentplace.jilnita@insightbb.com.

April 21 **Diaper Bags to Backpacks (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)**
“Diaper Bags to Backpacks” is a baby and childcare fair for families who are expecting a baby or have young children less than eight years of age. Families can find resources and information available in the community including child abuse prevention, child safety, developmental screenings, car seat safety checks, hearing and vision checks, kindergarten registration, and much more. Over 30 agencies are represented with activities for children and information for families. Also included is free food, entertainment and many drawings and door prizes. **Sponsor:** The Family Network, a collaborative effort of numerous agencies and schools. **Location:** Lincoln Elementary School, Jacksonville, IL. **Contact info:** Diane Ryals at 217-243-7424 at dryals@uiuc.edu.

April 26 **How to Help a Crying Baby (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)**
This two hour workshop directed to child care providers will focus on how to cope with a crying baby. Shaken Baby Syndrome and ways to keep infants safe will also be discussed. **Sponsor:** West Central Child Care Connection **Location:** Jerseyville, IL. **Contact info:** Katie Bowen at 217-222-2550 or kbowen@lvccccc.com.

April 28 **Martini Night**
An elegant cocktail reception/fine art auction with the purpose to enhance community awareness of child abuse prevention and neglect issues. **Sponsor:** The Parent Place. **Location:** Elijah Iles House, Springfield, IL. **Contact info:** Dina Coates-Koebler 217-546-5257 or theparentplace.dina@insightbb.com.

Events in Southern Illinois

April 1 - 30 **Love Is Not Enough to Keep Your Family Strong Parent Cafes**
Across Illinois parents are engaging in lively, real conversations to keep their family strong. These conversations are called parent cafes. **Sponsor:** Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education Illinois, DCFS, Illinois Family Partnership Network. **Location:** Varies, typically in an early childhood center. **Contact info:** Guy Schingoethe at 312-421-5200 ext 25.

April 2 **Southern Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Month Media Launch**
Media launch to announce Child Abuse Prevention Month, which will include speakers, resource tables, awards, pinwheels and blue ribbons. **Sponsor:** Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. **Location:** Madison County Government Bldg., 157 N Main Street, Edwardsville, IL. **Contact Info:** Theresa Williams at twilliams@preventchildabuseillinois or 618-583-2116; or Tarra Winters at 618-997-7855 or twinters@preventchildabuseillinois.org.

Hands Around the Court House

Candlelight vigil to honor and remember child abuse victims. **Sponsor:** Perry County CAPA. **Location:** Perry County Courthouse. **Contact Info:** Peggi Tolliver at 618-357-2990 or peggittolliver@verizon.net.

April 3 **Kids Fair**
Egyptian Health Department will have resource table at fair in order to promote child abuse prevention month. **Sponsor:** Southeastern Illinois College. **Location:** SIC College Campus, Harrisburg, IL. **Contact Info:** Joe Smith at 618-273-3326 or jsmith@egyptian.org.

April 5 **Community Open House**
The Child Advocacy Center will host a community open house, with tours of the facility, informational hand-outs, free refreshments and a presentation ceremony to express appreciation to the Center’s dedicated volunteers. **Sponsor:** Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center. **Location:** 109 Denny Industrial Dr., Anna, IL. **Contact Info:** Chasity Chotner at 618-833-7470 or crysschroeder@yahoo.com.

April 7 **Hope Center Community Carnival (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)**
Moving forward: Putting children First. Many wonderful activities for the whole family. **Sponsor:** State Farm Insurance, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Inc., McDonalds, I’m Safe/Child Safety Solutions, Inc. **Location:** Edwards County Exhibition Building. **Contact Info:** www.imsafe.com. Free rides by RIDES (877-667-6117).

April 12 **Family Day at Head Start (10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)**
A family picnic for Head Start families, including fingerprinting and information regarding child abuse and methamphetamine. **Sponsor:** Western Egyptian E.O.C. – Head Start. **Location:** Percy Head Start – Percy Park, Percy, IL. **Contact Info:** Natalie Hubler at 618-695-3313 or njh252001@yahoo.com.

- April 13** **Williamson County Child Abuse Prevention Month Observance**
 Family activity tables, entertainment, guest speaker, and blue ribbon ceremony. **Sponsor:** Child Advocacy Committee of Williamson County Coalition Against Methamphetamine Abuse. **Location:** Illinois Centre Mall, Marion, IL. **Contact Info:** Theresa Williams at 618-997-7855 or twilliams@preventchildabuseillinois.org.
- April 14** **Family Fun Day**
 A day filled with activities, entertainment and prizes for all ages. **Sponsor:** Perry County CAPA. **Location:** DuQuoin Youth Club. **Contact Info:** Betti-Mucha at 618-357-2990 or bettimucha@verizon.net.
- April 19** **Family Day at Head Start (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)**
 A family picnic for Head Start families, including fingerprinting and information regarding child abuse and methamphetamine. **Sponsor:** Western Egyptian E.O.C. – Head Start. **Location:** Sparta Head Start Center, 1820 N. Market, Sparta, IL 62286 **Contact Info:** Natalie Hubler at 618-695-3313 or njh252001@yahoo.com.
- Speak Out for Young Children at the State Capitol! Early Childhood Lobby Day**
 Early childhood supporters are encouraged to attend. Background materials, training, and a box lunch will be provided. Transportation from Chicago to Springfield will also be provided. If you are unable to attend, please pass this date on to others who you know would like to voice their opinion. **Sponsor:** Ounce of Prevention Fund and Healthy Families Illinois. **Location:** Springfield, IL. **Contact info and RSVP:** Rashanda Perryman at 312-922-3863 or rperryman@ounceofprevention.org.
- April 21** **5th Annual Kid Carnival (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)**
 A fun day for kids and an informational day for parents. **Sponsor:** AOK Network. **Location:** Mt. Carmel 4-H Fairground Building and Annex. **Contact Info:** Cathy Ile at 618-262-5968 or aok@wabashhealth.org.
- April 25** **Keep Kids Safe Carnival (1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)**
 Open house at the Health Department. Come meet Scooby Doo and his friends as they “Take the Mystery out of Keeping Kids Safe!” Hands-on activities, informational booths, car seat safety checks, door prizes, free photos, books, and more. **Sponsor:** Clay County Health Department. **Location:** Flora, IL. **Contact Info:** Doris Lusk at 618-662-4406 or dlusk@healthdept.org.
- April 26** **Family Day at Head Start (10 a.m. - Noon)**
 A family picnic for Head Start families, including fingerprinting and information regarding child abuse and methamphetamine. **Sponsor:** Western Egyptian E.O.C. – Head Start. **Location:** Perry County Head Start, Hitt Rd, Tamawa, IL. **Contact Info:** Natalie Hubler at 618-695-3313 or njh252001@yahoo.com.
- April 27** **Take Back the Night**
 SAFE (Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies) will begin with a Take Back the Night March from the courthouse to the Community Theater. There will be a “Clothesline” project, (an art exhibit of t-shirts made by survivors of violence showing their emotions), and testimonials by survivors of violence. There will be a theater group performing an awareness presentation. The event will culminate with a candlelight vigil. All ages are invited to attend this family event. **Sponsor:** SAFE. **Location:** Community Theatre (downtown by courthouse), Salem, IL. **Contact Info:** Cyndi Addison at 618-533-0475 or fayetteinter@yahoo.com.
- April 28** **8th Annual Jackson County Child Abuse Prevention Month Observance**
 The Keynote speaker for the observance will be Judge William Schwartz, presiding Judge, 1st Circuit. Children’s activities, music, and the presentation of poster essay contest winners will also be a part of the event. **Sponsor:** Jackson County Child Abuse Prevention Committee. **Location:** University Mall, Carbondale, IL. **Contact Info:** Jesslyn Jobe at 618-529-2621 x 129 or jjobe@shsdc.org.

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To report suspected child abuse and neglect, please call the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline
 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873) • TTY: 1-800-358-5117