

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: April is National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

PURPOSE

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Spring is fast approaching, and we know that planning is critical to success. The Department of Children and Families, Prevent Child Abuse/Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board are again asking you to please join us to **"Say Something, Do Something for Kids."** We have updated the 2017 Child Abuse Prevention Month Toolkit, which is designed to help organizations promote and strengthen child abuse prevention efforts throughout the state. We hope that providing this well in advance will help you prepare for and launch April prevention month activities to raise awareness about child maltreatment prevention in your community.

BACKGROUND

April was first declared "Child Abuse Prevention Month" by presidential proclamation in 1985. Across the nation, organizations and citizens dedicated to supporting children and families use this time to stress the importance of working together to prevent child abuse. Wisconsin's April Prevention Month message to "Say Something, Do Something for Kids" is designed to help individuals and communities understand that making a difference for a child may be as simple as supportive words or lending a hand.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The Child Abuse Prevention Month Toolkit contains some basic and necessary information about child maltreatment. At the same time, it stresses the importance of using a positive approach to educate and enlist the aid of others to tackle this challenging and preventable social problem. It offers ideas for simple activities that can be tailored to your communities' needs and implemented during April and throughout the year. The toolkit also includes sample letters and media releases to help spread the message throughout your community. The Child Abuse Prevention Month Toolkit is included here and available online at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/prevention/pdf/preventabusemonth.pdf>

Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility, and our organizations play a role in promoting child abuse prevention. Please "Say Something, Do Something for Kids" by spreading awareness, supporting families and protecting Wisconsin's children to help them grow and thrive.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Prevention Initiatives Coordinator
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Safety and Well Being
(608) 422-6960

MEMO WEB SITE:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments

2017 Child Abuse Prevention Month Toolkit

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/prevention/pdf/preventabusemonth.pdf>