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Month of April brings call to action and awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

(MADISON) – Governor Walker has [proclaimed](#) the month of April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Wisconsin to raise awareness about the effects of child abuse. During this month, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) joins Governor Walker's call for citizens to "Say Something, Do Something for Kids" by learning how to recognize the signs of maltreatment and working together to find solutions to the generational cycle of abuse and neglect.

Throughout April, Wisconsin's child protective community will be helping to bring attention to the month with a series of events.

- April 7: It's "[Wear Blue Day](#)" across the state. Wisconsinites are encouraged to "do something" to show support for child abuse prevention efforts by wearing a blue ribbon or the color blue – the color of prevention. Staff at DCF's Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) will be bringing extra attention to the day by posting photos of people wearing blue for kids at [#SaySomethingDoSomething](#).
- April 11: DMCPS staff will be planting a pinwheel garden in front of the DMCPS building at 635 N. 26th St., Milwaukee at 10:00 a.m., to symbolize that all children deserve happy, healthy and safe lives. The ceremony will be open to all citizens who would like to participate.
- April 14 – 30: A pinwheel garden will be on display on the grounds of the State Capitol.

During April, a full month is set aside to educate the public about [Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention](#), how to recognize warning signs of abuse and neglect, and how to take action by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to a child welfare agency or local law enforcement.

About five children per day die in the United States because of child abuse, and about 70 percent of abused children suffer from neglect. Research has found that the impact on a child who suffers from the trauma of abuse or neglect is not only felt when it occurs, but affects their brain later throughout their life. It can permanently affect them psychologically as well as physically.

“It naturally makes sense that children raised in loving and supportive homes do better,” said DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. “It’s important that we all do our part to make sure that children have a healthy, safe home in which they can learn, grow and thrive.”

Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed as a result of partnerships among citizens, social service agencies, schools, and community organizations, ranging from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, to county and Indian child welfare agencies and hundreds of non-profit agencies who work to protect Wisconsin children every day.

Learn more about Child and Family Safety on the DCF website at www.dcf.wisconsin.gov.