



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4000 • Fax (775) 684-4010
<http://dhhs.nv.gov>

March 28, 2013

Contact: Mary Woods, PIO
(775) 684-4024
Mary.woods@dhhs.nv.gov

For Immediate Release

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Do Your Part to Prevent Child Maltreatment and Promote Well-Being

Carson City, NV – April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Nevada a better place for children and families. “By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children’s social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities,” said Mike Willden, Director, DHHS.

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 of parents
- Social and emotional developmental well-being

“April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” said Amber Howell, Administrator for DCFS. “Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote 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.”

On April 2, 2013, DCFS will team with community partners including Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, Advocates to End Domestic Violence, Children’s Advocacy Alliance and CASA in a pinwheel planting event on the lawn of the Nevada State Legislature at 10:00 am. “As the symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention, the pinwheel is an uplifting reminder of childhood and the bright futures all children deserve,” Howell said.

For more information on child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April, and throughout the year, contact DCFS, Social Services Chief, Systems Advocate, Chrystal C. Main at cmain@dcfs.nv.gov or Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, Amanda Haboush at Amanda.Haboush@unlv.edu.

###