



# Child Abuse Prevention Month

## How Communities Can Prevent Child Abuse

Child abuse is a community issue. Child abuse prevention means stopping child abuse and neglect before it happens. Every person can help make sure the children of Marion County have a brighter future – preventing child abuse is up to all of us.

### **Be empathetic.**

**Prevention is up to our entire community.** Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand or kind word to parents showing signs of stress and those you see losing patience with their children.

### **Be available.**

**ALL families need a helping hand at some point.** Develop the kind of relationships with parenting neighbors, parenting friends, and parenting family members that allow them to come to you for help and support.

### **Make your place of business child-friendly.**

**Not only are family friendly practices good for your employees, they're good for your business.** Develop and maintain child friendly spaces that engage the children of parenting adults you do business with.

### **Know your neighbors.**

**Be aware of what is happening in your own neighborhood.** Get to know your neighbors. Join the local neighborhood association or community garden. Throw a block party during National Neighbor's Night Out. Be present and active in your neighborhood helping parenting neighbors develop local social networks.

### **Be informed and get involved.**

**YOU are the first step in preventing abuse.** Find more information and resources about how to prevent child abuse at [www.parentforthefuture.com](http://www.parentforthefuture.com)