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Child Abuse Prevention Month April 2016

Read Me First!

We've all heard the saying that every person is unique. It's true — even for children. While environment can play a big part in how a child develops, research shows that babies come wired with their own personalities and temperaments. They are distinct individuals who crave love and acceptance. Our job as parents and caring adults is to celebrate them and help them use their gifts and talents, and the special interests they develop to thrive as happy young people who grow into caring and productive adults.

This year's prevention theme is **"Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Educate. Guide. Protect."** It highlights the fact that every child should be valued. The 2016 packet is filled with resources that can help parents and caregivers as they nurture, communicate with and support the children and youth they are raising.

How to Use the Packet

Use the packet as you organize your observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month 2016. The parenting tips, child development information and other flyers included can be duplicated or reprinted. There is also a Proclamation for your use. Feel free to customize the packet materials by adding information about your local program or inserting the name of your group.

Find Prevention Information on the Web

You can find the latest statistics and other prevention information on the Virginia Department of Social Services web site: www.dss.virginia.gov/family/prevention.cgi

You can also download this entire packet from the Prevent Child Abuse Virginia web site, www.pcav.org or on the Virginia Department of Social Services web site listed above.

Don't Forget to Fill Out Your Survey ~ in Print or Online!

Completing the survey in the left side of this packet is very important.

We use your responses to plan for next year's packet.

You may mail, fax or scan the printed survey or visit this web address to take the survey online: www.pcav.org/2016-child-abuse-prevention-month-survey

 **We appreciate receiving copies** of the materials you produce and distribute during Prevention Month, clippings from your local newspaper, and pictures.



2016 Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention
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