STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

In Recognition of

Ohio Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month
April 2010

All Ohioans share a responsibility to protect our children. During Ohio Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect and to work to enable our children to realize their full potential.

Childhood is a formative time, and abuse and neglect can have devastating long-term effects on young lives. In order to provide a safe environment for our young people, parents must work to protect their children from the dangers that threaten them. Family members, educators, public officials, and faith-based and community organizations all play important roles in helping to ensure that children are safe and can grow surrounded by love and stability.

Every Ohioan shares the commitment to support children and promote safe and stable families across Ohio. Child abuse and neglect prevention is the most critical issue we can address for the long-term prosperity of our country.

Toxic stress from child abuse and neglect impedes healthy brain development and effective child development is effective economic development.

Research has shown that when protective factors including: parental resiliency; social connection; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support; and social and emotional development, are present the incidence of child abuse and neglect is reduced.

As we observe Ohio Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our commitment to building a state where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, all Ohioans have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our state.

We hold sacred the trust of our nation's most valuable resource, our children; and now therefore I, Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as Ohio Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to help protect our children and work to create strong, healthy communities.

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland
Governor