

**Ohio Children's Trust Fund Encourages Everyone to Play a Role  
in Preventing Abuse and Neglect**

*April Is Ohio and National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month*

Governor Strickland has declared April 2009 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Ohio, urging residents to take action to protect children. In observance, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making their communities a better place for families.

In 2007, more than 106,538 of Ohio's children experienced one or more type of abuse or neglect. This April, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund seeks to raise public awareness of the fact that these tragedies are preventable.

"April is a time to remember the important role that communities play in protecting children," said Edna Brown, Chair of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board. "Everyone's participation is critical. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and communities."

Research shows that five important factors are present in healthy families. Experts say promoting these factors is the best thing we can do to prevent child abuse and neglect. The factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment Building a close bond helps parents better understand, respond to, and communicate with their children.
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development Parents who take the time to learn these things have more realistic expectations for their children, and are much more effective as parents. They're also more effective at helping their children reach their potential.
- Parental resilience Recognizing the signs of stress and knowing what to do about it can help parents build their capacity to cope. They'll be better able to deal with stress on a daily basis, and better able to problem solve.
- Social connections Parents with an extensive network of family, friends and neighbors have better support in times of need.
- Concrete supports for parents Caregivers with access to financial, housing and other resources can better attend their role as parents. Find out what resources are available in your community.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund is the state's sole public funding source dedicated to preventing abuse and neglect. Housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund works in partnership with its 88 county partners to serve all of Ohio's communities. For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities going on in your community during the month of April and throughout the year, visit [www.jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF).