

Contact: Radhika Cruz  
Phone: 330-941-8852  
e-mail: cruzr@odjfs.state.oh.us

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April is National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month**  
**“Strong Families Growing Safe Kids”**

Mahoning County Children Services in collaboration with Mahoning County Family and Children's First Council and Help Me Grow will be hosting an informative and fun family event called “Strong Families Growing Safe Kids”. The event will be held on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Mill Creek MetroParks Fellows Riverside Gardens.

The goal of the event is to create awareness and provide solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. The event will include educational sessions that will focus on parental stress management, positive discipline and child rearing practices, nurturing and attachment, internet safety and parenting children with disabilities.

There will also be various activity stations for children to visit where they can hear a story, make a craft, play bingo and have an FBI IdentiKit created for child safety. Only the first **200** children will receive a resource toolkit that will include a free *Berenstain Bears* storybook on stranger danger, a “Protecting My Body” coloring book, a “My Body is My Own” wristband and resources and tips on internet safety.

The event is funded by the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund and is free to the public. Please consider how you can participate in making a difference in the life of a child!

If anyone would like more information about this event, please contact Radhika Cruz at 330-941-8852 or Rachilla Basista at 330-965-7828 for more information.