

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 12-0242

Declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, children are key to the City of Denver's future success, prosperity, and quality of life, and while children are our most valuable resource, they are also our most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, strong families are essential to raising healthy children and they must be supported and strengthened in their important work of raising Denver's children; and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to a safe and healthy childhood, to live in a loving and nurturing environment, and to be secure and well cared for in their homes, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening families; thus, preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment, providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently, building the cornerstone foundations of communities; and

WHEREAS, strong families and safe, healthy children reduce the likelihood that abuse and neglect will continue to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect depends upon the awareness, involvement, and cooperation of all people and organizations in our community; and

WHEREAS, every parent in our community should be aware there are five protective factors imperative to preventing child abuse:

- 1) Family Resilience - Challenging times impact every family. Recognizing stressful situations and keeping a sense of hope helps us to take constructive action to turn things around.
- 2) Parent Development - Taking time to learn about child development teaches us how to set realistic expectations and gives us tools to cope with various situations.
- 3) Child Development - Helping children develop emotionally helps them identify their feelings, clearly communicate and problem solve, preparing them for positive social interaction.
- 4) Network of Family & Friends - Having a support system helps us get needed breaks, cope with difficult times, and prevents us from becoming isolated.
- 5) Professional Support - Getting to know a day care professional, teacher, or doctor gives us an expert to turn to in times of need; and

WHEREAS, every school, neighborhood, non-profit organization, hospital, day care center, and community organization that touches the life of a child should be aware of these five protective factors; and

WHEREAS, “Pinwheels for Prevention” planted in gardens around Denver serve as a reminder that every child can have a bright and positive future with the support of our community in preventing child abuse from ever happening in the first place.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Denver City Council declares April 2012 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City & County of Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Denver Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 2, 2012

_____ PRESIDENT