



April 2024 Issue



## The Butterfly Brief

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## April is Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

April is also known as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In 2023, the Franklin County Child Abuse Hotline received around 28,000 calls and nearly half of the calls raised concerns about a child being physically abused.

Every year, we recommit ourselves to bringing light to this issue and empowering our readers to know the signs. We encourage you to read this Newsletter and if you know of any parent or guardian who may need assistance, please pass along this information. For more information please visit this link:

<https://preventchildabuse.org/capmonth2024/>

Blessings,

The Health & Wellness Team



# What is Child Abuse & Neglect?

What exactly is child abuse and neglect? It is, at a minimum, any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent of serious harm (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).

There are some recommendations to prevent child abuse and neglect through the CWIG. Your childcare worker is a mandated reporter. If abuse or neglect is suspected, they can report it.

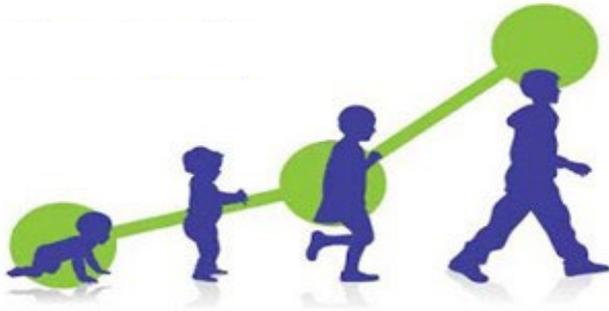
## 10 Ways to Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect

- **Volunteer your time. Get involved with other parents in your community.**
- **Correct behavior thoughtfully. Never correct your child when you are upset. Go for a walk, take a break, BREATHE. Give yourself time to calm down.**
- **Examine your behavior. Abuse is not just physical. Both words and actions can inflict deep, lasting wounds. Be a nurturing parent. Use your actions to show children and adults that conflicts can be settled without hitting or yelling.**
- **Educate yourself and others. Simple support for children and parents can be the best way to prevent child abuse. After school activities, parent education classes, mentoring programs, and respite care are some of the many ways to keep children safe from harm. Be a voice in support of these efforts in your community.**
- **Teach children their rights. When children are taught they are special and have the right to be safe, they are less likely to think abuse is their fault, and more likely to report an offender.**
- **Support prevention programs. Too often interventions occur only after abuse is reported. Greater investments are needed in programs that have been proven to stop the abuse before it occurs - such as family counseling and home visits by nurses who help with newborns and their parents.**
- **Know what child abuse is. Physical and sexual abuse clearly constitute maltreatment, but so does neglect, or failure of parents or other caregivers to provide a child with needed food, clothing,**

**and care. Children can also be emotionally abused when they are rejected, berated, or continuously isolated.**

- **Know the signs. Unexplained injuries aren't the only signs of abuse. Depression, fear of a certain adult, difficulty trusting others or making friends, sudden changes in eating or sleeping patterns, inappropriate sexual behavior, poor hygiene, secrecy, hostility are often signs of family problems and may indicate a child is being neglected or physically, sexually, or emotionally abused.**
- **Report abuse. If you witness a child being harmed or see evidence of abuse, make a report to the correct authorities. When talking to a child about abuse, listen carefully, assure the child that she/he did the right thing by telling an adult, and affirm that she/he is not responsible for what happened.**
- **Invest in kids. Encourage leaders in the community to be supportive of children and families. Ask your local and national lawmakers to support legislation to better protect our children and improve their lives.**

# Milestones Matter w/ Ms. P



Dear Parent:

We have started the month of April with what seems to be “Toddler Weather”! As with our unpredictable weather, those typical toddler temper tantrums are expected as your toddler is learning how to express herself when she is frustrated, upset, tired, or hungry.

Remember, toddlers still do not have the verbal skills to explain how they are feeling. Don't be surprised when your child drops to the ground and starts screaming. No need to panic...you can **STILL** expect your little one to make great strides between 2 and 3-years-old!

The bottom line? Try your best to help them process and work through emotions with patience, love, and empathy. It's not easy being 2! Also, don't be surprised if your toddler isn't ready to play with other children in a traditional, give-and-take manner. They might prefer to play alongside other kids, as opposed to with them.

Finally, you will notice that your toddler mimic actions and **WORDS**. Be sure to censure what they are hearing and seeing. Remember, toddlers are unable to judge whether their behaviors are appropriate—and that's where you come in to guide them.

Every child develops at her own pace. The information provided throughout this newsletter is not medical advice. Please always consult with your pediatrician and your baby's teacher to monitor milestone progression.

Grow with Love,

Ms. P 

## 2-Year Old Milestones Checklist

### Communication and Cognitive Checklist

- Uses two-word sentences such as, "I go!"
- Repeats words heard in conversations
- Can find objects when you hide them
- Points to objects or pictures when you name them

### Physical Milestones Checklist

- Learning how to use zippers and snaps on clothing
- May pull pants up and down
- Tries to brush own hair or teeth
- Carries or pulls toys behind them while walking

### Social and Emotional Checklist

- Learning to Express Themselves
- Gradual Interest in Other Kids
- Imitates Behaviors



# Coloring Activity Page

