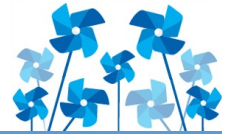


PREVENTION DURING A PANDEMIC

Everyone can play a role in child abuse prevention—even during a pandemic. In these difficult times, when caregivers are stressed and financially burdened, child abuse prevention is more important than ever. Want to do your part while social distancing? Here are tips from the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team!



Entertain kids and foster creativity

Get creative and put smiles on children's faces! Perform a puppet show outside a nearby family's window. Create a craft kit and mail it to a family. Offer to do virtual story time for a stressed family. Make your own pinwheels, the symbols of child abuse prevention, with your children!

Be supportive of parents

Let families know you care. Call a parent you know to check in. An extra five minutes to listen to someone could make a world of difference. Grab some chalk and leave supportive messages for parents on sidewalks in your neighborhood! Share the number for the Greater Charlotte Hope Line, 980-771-HOPE (4673), with others and on social media.

Donate to organizations in need

Local charitable organizations are always working to serve those in need, but with more families suffering from hardships caused by COVID-19, their services are especially critical now. Want to help? Donate money, food or supplies to a local food bank or domestic violence shelter. Seek out volunteer opportunities that can be done remotely for child-serving organizations.

Lend a helping hand

Little things can make a big difference for a family under stress. Offer to pick up groceries for the family next door, and leave the groceries on their doorstep. Mow a nearby family's grass. Sew masks for a family that needs protection.

See something, say something

Keep an eye out for signs of child abuse and neglect. In North Carolina, everyone has a legal obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Add Mecklenburg County's Child Protective Services hotline number, 980-31-HELPS (43577), to your phone so that you're prepared if you need to make a report. If a child is in immediate danger, always call 911.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

*More resources from the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team
are available at meck4kids.org.
Find us on social media: @Meck4Kids*