

5 Ways to Raise Awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month



1. Show Up

Take the time to look for local events hosted by child advocacy organizations during the month of April. Make plans to attend, and don't forget to invite others!

Your local CASA or child advocacy center (CAC) is likely to plant a blue pinwheel garden, host a Superhero 5K, or encourage supports to wear blue on a certain day. You can also find a variety of conferences, symposiums, and other informative events that center around child abuse prevention in April. In May, local chapters of the international organization Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) often organize a 100-mile ride to raise awareness.

If you can't find any prominent events in your community, plan one yourself! Organize a fundraiser for a local or national nonprofit that serves children, or ask your church to observe the Blue Sunday Day of Prayer on the last Sunday of April.

2. Start Conversations

Make your community a safer place for children by speaking openly with friends and family about important topics such as body safety and abuse dynamics. Ask questions about your church's child protection policy. Teach people about grooming tactics, signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse.

3. Wear Blue

Show your support by wearing blue during the month of April. Ask the office to join in, or organize a "wear blue" day at your school or church.

For a solo effort, make your blue shirt count by buying one that features an abuse prevention message or the logo for a nonprofit like Prevent Child Abuse America. You can also purchase water bottles, blue ribbon pins, and other gear online through several retailers and organizations.

4. Plant a Pinwheel Garden

Eye-catching pinwheel gardens make a great conversation starter. Just make sure you're armed with information and resources to share.

You don't need to plant a huge garden. Filling a planter with pinwheels or keeping one in your pencil holder at work will do the trick.

5. Practice What You Preach — All Year Long

It's not enough to talk about child abuse prevention. To stop abuse, we must each be willing to speak up and step in. Learn the signs of abuse, and if you suspect a child is being abused, report it. Don't assume someone else will do it; you may be that child's best or only hope for intervention — especially if the child is very young or socially isolated.

Support your local child advocacy center, CASA, and other important organizations by donating or volunteering. Insist that organizations you are involved with follow best practices for child protection. Listen to your children when they talk about small things so they'll know they can trust you with big things. Back them up when they refuse to hug Aunt Enid so they know they can say no when a situation makes them uncomfortable.