



Children's Protection Council

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Local Government Officials to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Local government officials will be issuing proclamations to declare April to be Child Abuse Prevention Month. Throughout the month of April, individuals and organizations throughout Catawba County will be raising public awareness about what each of us can do to prevent child abuse and neglect. On the dates listed below, local elected officials will join the effort by issuing an official proclamation. You are invited to attend.

The hallmark of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Blue Ribbon Campaign has become a visible national symbol for April's Child Abuse Prevention Month. Organizations, such as the Children's Protection Council, the Children's Advocacy Center and the Department of Social Services, that advocate for child abuse prevention use tools such as the Blue Ribbon campaigns to increase public awareness during the month of April.

These organizations are committed to educating our community about the problems of child abuse and neglect. This year, the Child Abuse Prevention Campaign focuses on supporting parents with young children. We know the early years of childhood are critical periods for prevention and intervention efforts. Parents need to be empowered with child development information and they need to be encouraged to ask for help from members of their community.

The latest research on public awareness of child abuse and neglect suggests that the public is greatly concerned about the issue. Research also suggests that the public would like to know more about how children develop mentally, emotionally and physically. The Children's Advocacy Center and Social

Services are dedicated to assisting parents and other community members to learn more about these topics.

- Last year, **24,597 children in North Carolina** were found to have suffered abuse or neglect
- **37 children in North Carolina** died as a result of child abuse in fiscal year 2005 – 06
- Last year, **1,910 reports of child abuse or neglect** were investigated in Catawba County

Local Officials will issue the official proclamation declaring April to be Child Abuse Prevention Month according to the following schedule:

Date	Time	Location
April 2 nd	9:00 am	Catawba County Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 2 nd	7:00 pm	Claremont Town Meeting
April 2 nd	7:00 pm	Catawba Town Meeting
April 2 nd	7:30 pm	Conover City Meeting
April 3 rd	7:00 pm	Hickory City Meeting
April 3 rd	7:00 pm	Newton City Meeting
April 9 th	7:30 pm	Longview Town Meeting
April 10 th	7:00 pm	Maiden Town Meeting