



April 2021

Dear Provider:

Every child deserves a great childhood that's carefree and full of promise. To raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) supports the [Pinwheels for Prevention®](#) campaign.

Pinwheels for Prevention® is a nationwide campaign, created by Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) and its state chapters. The goal of Pinwheels of Prevention® is to engage people in taking “extraordinary ordinary” actions that can reduce stress for families and increase resilience for children—anything from writing a letter to the editor in support of family support programs to offering to babysit for a neighbor.



Protective Factors

As mandated reporters, caregivers play a vital role in protecting children. These are unprecedented times where preventing child abuse and neglect is especially important. During the month of April, OCFS is highlighting the importance of protective factors as proven strategies to reduce child abuse.

What are protective factors?

They are characteristics or conditions that reduce or buffer the effects of risk, stress, or trauma. A protective factor is an asset of some kind. Some examples of protective factors are:

- Developing relationships with children’s families
- Familiarizing yourself with the signs of abuse/maltreatment - Abuse is not just physical; both words and actions can inflict deep, lasting wounds
- Providing resource and referral to parents - <https://www.nysparentguide.org/>

- Modeling nurturing and responsive interactions with children - use your own actions to show children and other adults that conflicts can be settled without hitting or yelling
- Offering guidance to families regarding child development

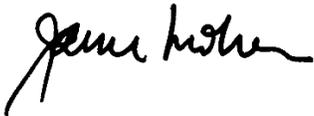
Additional information regarding protective factors can be found here:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/promoting/protectfactors/>.

Attached is a calendar of activities you can post in your program. The calendar suggests an activity you can do each day of the month to encourage positive childhood experiences and help to reduce child abuse.

I hope you will take some time and further explore our website as it contains much more useful information. You can find our website at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp>.

Sincerely,



Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Si necesita leer esta carta en español, visite el portal de la División de Servicios de Cuidado Infantil: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letters.asp>. Si no tiene acceso a la Red o Internet, contacte al encargado de licencias o registros para recibir ayuda.

