

Child Abuse Prevention Month 2017

Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse



Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance is working with the Interdependence Hexagon Project on *Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse*. The Hexagon Project is inspired by the Interdependence Movement. The goal of the Interdependence Movement is to work towards a more civil, peace-minded, and just world. It began after 9/11, as a way to reflect not just on the injustices of the world, but to ask ourselves what we can do to change things. The Hexagon Project is about seeing the big picture collectively. The more we talk about the interdependence of our lives, the more we can come up with solutions that include everyone!

Child abuse and neglect is a problem that's too big for any one non-profit organization, government office, or law enforcement agency to solve. **Everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse and everyone can do something to help.** If parents, neighbors, faith-based organizations, businesses, medical professionals – the entire community – work together, child abuse can be prevented. When we realize that we're all connected, we begin to see solutions and make commitments to help.



Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse is a way to begin finding solutions. It's an opportunity to identify what you're already doing as an individual or a group, talk with others to come up with more ideas, and share those ideas with others via creation of hexagons.

When placed together, the hexagons are a great reminder that each of us is part of a community that cares about keeping kids safe. Each life touches the lives of others and when we *work together* we can *prevent child abuse*.

Join us!

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Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA), a statewide child abuse prevention organization, leads the Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) observance across Pennsylvania. This year we are celebrating 10 years of *Painting for Prevention*, our community-based mural art program, with a new way for EVERYONE to get involved in child abuse prevention – **Working Together**.

How it works:

1. Print the hexagon template on the next page (it's important that all the templates are the same size – you'll see why in a minute).
2. Cut out the hexagon, trace it on card stock paper (you can use paper but card stock holds up better) and cut out it out. Gather crayons, markers, color pencils or paint. Another idea – gather magazines, photos or any other materials for a collage.
3. You can create the hexagon on your own, but a group activity often brings out more creative ideas and starts a discussion on child abuse prevention. Here are some things to think/talk about as you design your hexagon.
 - There are many ways to prevent child abuse, and everyone can do something to help. It doesn't matter how large or small your action is – whatever you do to help a child or support a family is child abuse prevention! Think about some ways that you help, and talk about them with others in your group. For example, "our church sponsors a program for homeless families, and I help by volunteering each month." Or "I keep an eye on kids in our neighborhood to make sure they are safe."
 - Decide which ideas you will depict on your hexagon. Whatever is important to you is important to us! If you have trouble thinking of some ways to help, consider the people who have helped you grow, learn, play, and thrive. What did they do that helped you?
4. Use crayons, markers, color pencils, paint to bring your ideas to life on the hexagon. If you want to sketch out your ideas, you can use the template as a "practice" paper. If you're working as a group, share your ideas with others. If making a collage, assemble your materials and attach them to your hexagon.
5. When you are finished, talk with others in your group about what you created. Then arrange your group's hexagons so that the edges touch (this is why they need to be the same size). Re-arrange them as much as you like. Create as many hexagons as you like. If working alone, include a statement on the back expressing why you chose your images and what the hexagon means to you.
6. Take a digital photo of the hexagons and the people who created them; title your photo with the date and organization/person/family who created it. [Email your photos to PFSA](#). You may also mail the hexagons to us at: PA Family Support Alliance, 2000 Linglestown Rd., Suite 301, Harrisburg, PA 17110. **Make sure to include your contact information on the back of the hexagon** so we can keep you informed about the project.
7. Visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) to see what others are doing and learn more about how you can prevent child abuse.

