



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and child well-being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Child Abuse Florida's Pinwheels for Prevention campaign engages public and private sector agencies, early learning professionals, advocates for children and youth, and residents throughout the state in activities that increase understanding of child development and other topics related to child, family and community success; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Florida in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families will be engaging communities throughout Florida in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2010 as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 22nd day of March in the year two thousand ten.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlie Crist".
Governor