



# Child Abuse Prevention Month Welcome

**FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for partnering with Missouri KidsFirst during Child Abuse Prevention Month to preventing child abuse and neglect.

In times of crisis and economic insecurity, rates of child abuse and neglect increase. COVID-19 has added stressors to the lives of parents and caregivers. We saw a drop in child abuse and neglect reporting last year as children were more isolated than normal. We are still working to understand the pandemic's repercussions for incidents of child abuse and neglect.

What we do know is that positive childhood experiences in nurturing environments provide a strong foundation for physical and mental health, learning, and social skills. We can build healthier, safer, and thriving communities if we work together to support families.

So join with us this month to support healthy childhoods and families! Please share the following information with families, schools, youth serving organizations, and all adults who care for children. Every adult is essential to creating better tomorrows for all children!

Sincerely,

David Chayer