



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DO YOUR PART: PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

APRIL 1, 2004 -- April marks the 21st anniversary of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. In Ohio, the theme is: *Attention Adults: YOU Are the KEY To Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect.*

Children's Services, the county's child protection agency, counts on the community to help prevent child abuse.

Learn the signs of child abuse and neglect. Reach out to families in trouble. Call Hamilton County's child abuse and neglect reporting line—241-KIDS.

In Hamilton County, caseworkers investigate about 6,000 reports of abuse and neglect each year. It's a big problem—one requires a widespread response.

The behavior of children may signal abuse or neglect long before any change in physical appearance. Some of the signs may include:

- Nervousness around adults
- Aggression toward adults or other children
- Inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods
- Sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities
- Unnatural interest in sex
- Frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries
- Low self-esteem
- Poor hygiene

If you see these signs in any children you know, reach out to them and to their parents and offer a helping hand.

--Source: www.preventchildabuse.org