PCA Georgia Partners with The Professional Excellence Center for Webinar on Fathers

Ask the Experts Webinar Identifying and Engaging Fathers March 16th 10 am

Join us for this "Ask the Expert" Session
March 16th - 10 am- 11:30 pm

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is partnering with The Professional Excellence Center in this unique "Ask the Expert" session.
Hear from Darrell Green (Professional Excellence Program and
father), Clinton Boyd Jr. (SafeCare and father), and Shannon Self-Brown (Associate Director for Research & Development in the National SafeCare Training and Research Center) for an interactive and open dialogue about what it means to not only “identify” fathers, but how to engage and involve them in a partnership, by helping them firmly establish a relationship with their children.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

BLUEPRINT for a Great Childhood

It's not too late to plan an event or do something in your community to raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAP)! PCA Georgia recently released the 2016 Community Action Guide for CAP Month and our recent webinar on CAP month planning can be viewed on our website. In addition to this community guide, PCA Georgia has sample letters to the editor, press releases, proclamations, social media posts and more in our Media Toolkit that helps year-round to launch discussions on prevention.

2016 Oscar-Winner 'Spotlight' Shines Attention on Child Abuse

BASh ON THE PUTZER PRIZE-WINNING INVESTIGATION

SPOTLIGHT

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is a state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. We provide statewide direction to prevent child abuse and neglect, promote healthy children, and develop strong families through our prevention network, public awareness, prevention programs, and advocacy. Check out our Fact Sheet!

CONTACT US

We've moved offices please see our new physical address!
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Add us to your address book

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The film 'Spotlight' (starring Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo and Rachel McAdams) depicts the story of a team of Boston Globe reporters as they uncover a sex abuse scandal in the Catholic church. The compelling story-line brings the issue of sex abuse within the Catholic community to the forefront of popular culture. 'Spotlight' producer Michael Sugar states that the film serves to give "a voice to survivors," and "this film amplifies that voice, which we hope will become a choir that will resonate..." Last year, Pope Francis addressed the church's history of abuse in a statement: at a news conference held shortly after he met with sexual abuse victims. "...the church is strong on this, and one must not cover these things up. Those who covered this up are guilty."

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy have released a fact sheet on how the child sexual abuse training "Stewards of Children" can be implemented for all those concerned about sexual abuse.

To find a Stewards of Children training in your area, Click Here.

To make sure your organization is clear on recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, contact jwalsh10@gsu.edu for Mandated Reporter Training.

Save the Date: The Raising of America Screening

PCA Georgia is hosting a screening of the signature hour of The Raising of America, a powerful five-part documentary series that explores the importance of early childhood and the future of America.

This event is part of the #GaEarlyEd100 Challenge, a local campaign, made possible through the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) and the Blank Foundation, aimed at starting a conversation about what it means to make Georgia a better place for children and families.

The film is free and open to the public.

GIVING

Support PCA Georgia by giving today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds Presents: "Addressing Health Disparities in Early Childhood"
Ross Thompson, PhD "Origins and Impacts of Disparities in Early Childhood"
Paul H. Dworkin, MD "Making Connections to Support Healthy Development for All Children"
Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP "Public Health Programs to Improve Early Childhood Health"
Mary Ann McCabe, PhD, ABPP "Strategies to Promote Healthy Behavioral Development in Childhood"

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm, ET
Location: Live Webcast. For viewing instructions, click here.

RESOURCES & TRAINING

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services: FREE Online Mandated Reporter Training. Click here to access.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta: Web-based training series for Georgia healthcare professionals on child sex trafficking. Click here to register.

Darkness to Light: Click to view a list of upcoming "Stewards of Children" child sexual abuse prevention training.

Strengthening Families: "How Strengthening Families Aligns With the Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework" is
WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (EDT) - Add to Calendar

WHERE: Georgia State University’s Cinefest
66 Courtland St SE, Atlanta, GA 30303

While there is no charge for tickets, we do ask that you register as space is limited.

Get Ticket Now

Parking information:

Non-GSU Parking  GSU Visitor Parking

Apps for Raising Happy, Healthy Children

Parenting is stressful work, and studies have shown that children’s development suffers at the hand of parental stress. A team at the Institute for Safe Families has compiled a list of smartphone apps that can help parents understand and control their stress levels to the benefit of their children’s health.

The list of apps details the apps’ functions, as well as the research behind them. The team also includes other forms of resources for parents.

Smartphone, Not-So-Smart Parenting
While there are more smartphone apps that can support positive parenting, Amy Novotney, with the American Psychological Association, discusses how child development experts have
associated smartphones with 'distracted-parenting,' which could have long-term consequences. The Pew Research Center states that about 64% of Americans own smartphones and while smartphones provide some family benefits (e.g., allowing families to spend more time together because of parental ability to access work from anywhere), smartphones are now negatively linked to hindering children's social development and slight increases in unintentional childhood injuries. Two recent studies have added more evidence to support this growing notion of 'distracted-parenting.' One observational study involved caregiver-child at playgrounds in New York, and discovered that caregivers were distracted "74% of the time during the recorded play periods." A second study observed caregiver-child pairs as they ate at fast-food restaurants. Researchers not only recorded that 40% of caregivers were on their phones for the entire meal, but those who were most preoccupied with their phones were most likely to have negative responses towards children who 'disrupted' them.

Steiner-Adair offers several recommendations such as waking up earlier to check emails before waking up the kids and keeping mealtimes, drive times and bedtimes tech-free. "Kids thrive in the context of really good relationships with their parents, and never before has technology challenged that relationship and that direct in-vivo connection as much as it does today," Steiner-Adair says. To access the entire article and read more about additional tips to practice healthier technology habits click the link.

Recently some locations of Chick Fil A challenged their customers to put down their phone during their meal and if successful they would receive a free ice cream for dessert. Select Chick Fil A restaurants are offering dining families a square, cardboard box called a "cell phone coop" where they can place their phones during the meal. "Although our phones were meant to bring us closer together, they can sometimes have the opposite effect," the company said in its announcement. What a great idea to promote family time and communication during mealtime.

Read Full Article Here
Babies and Poverty: *First Focus* Outlines Key Issues for Presidential Candidates and Voters

*First Focus* is a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions. Karen Howard, Vice President of Early Childhood Policy for *First Focus*, illuminates five key issues pertaining to baby/child poverty that politicians and voters alike should know in her article "Babies and Poverty: Top 5 Things Presidential Candidates, Voters Need to Know," such as one in three people living in poverty in the U.S. are children, but supporting effective early childhood programs can help reduce child poverty.

Access the full article and read about Howard's important policy suggestions [here](#).

Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work With Infants & Toddlers

"Baby Talk" is a free listserv provided by the Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators (CITE). CITE works to promote quality infant and toddler care and education by influencing policies and offering support, resources, collaborations and professional development opportunities for child-serving professionals. CITE releases a new issue of "Baby Talk" every month. Each issue features resources that are high quality, readily available and free. The latest issue includes resources and information about "Early Brain Development", "Touch, Play and Support in Childhood Vital to Well-Being as an Adult", "Babies Use Their Tongues to Understand Speech", "Parent Feedback Program Improves School Readiness of Children in Poverty", and "Infant Language Development". Check out this valuable resource [here](#), or join the listserv by sending an email with no message to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu.
Bullying Prevention Online Course

Get up-to-date on the latest research and best practices in bullying prevention by participating in StopBullying.gov's Bullying Prevention Online Course. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides continuing education credits to nurses (CNE), certified health education specialists (CECH), certified public health professionals (CPH) and others. The course features a self-directed format that allows you to learn and test your knowledge at your own pace. Click this link to view the course and earn your credits.

1-800-CHILDREN
A statewide information and referral helpline offering resources and support to parents and caregivers

1-800-CHILDREN Helpline Update
The 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline database now has over 1,444 community resources and has taken approximately 2,390 calls since its launch in February, 2014. An essential component of the 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline is the resource database. Do you have a community resource guide or are you familiar with resources in your area? If so, contact jyll with your information.

We recently distributed promotional materials (rack cards and bookmarks) for the helpline. These promotional materials are now available in Spanish as well. To request materials, contact jyll.

The Helpline provides information and referral services for parents, caregivers and professionals interested in parenting, child maltreatment prevention and the healthy development of children.
Prevention in Your Community
PCA Georgia now has 19 local councils around the state of Georgia that provide direct services, training, public education and awareness and work to prevent child abuse and neglect. Find out where your local PCA is [here](#).

Our councils are doing great things to serve their community! If you’re interested in starting a council in your community or just finding out more information on how you can get involved, please [email](#) us.

Check out these other resources
Help Me Grow National Center:
This center connects at-risk children with the services they need. It builds collaboration across sectors, including child health care, early care and education, and family support. Through comprehensive physician and community outreach and centralized information and referral centers, families are linked with needed programs and services. Ongoing data collection and analysis helps identify gaps in and barriers to the system. Click [here](#) for more information.

The National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement:
Head Start, Early Head Start, and other early childhood programs are committed to ensuring that children are healthy and ready for school. Programs recognize that strong families are at the heart of children’s success. Each program sets goals, develops objectives, and chooses strategies to support progress toward positive outcomes for families. Click [here](#) for more information.

Connecticut Children’s Office for Community Child Health:
Connecticut Children’s Office for Community Child Health brings together internal, local, state, and national stakeholders to ensure that children in all communities receive the best care possible. It ensures that children and their families have access to a comprehensive system of wellness programs and health services in their communities. Read more [here](#).

Prevention Institute
Serves as a focal point for primary prevention practice—promoting policies, organizational practices, and collaborative efforts that improve health and quality of life. FOCUS AREAS include, preventing violence and reducing injury, reforming our...
health system, supporting healthy food and activity environments, improving environments for health and health equity, and promoting mental health and well-being. Read more here.