

Dear Colleagues:

A nurturing home environment, safe places to play, good medical care, stimulating schools—so many ingredients are necessary to help children grow up to be safe and healthy. When children are surrounded with secure relationships and stimulating experiences, they draw from that environment to become confident, caring adults. The primary responsibility for children's health and well-being rests with parents, but they cannot do it alone. All families benefit from the help of strong, supportive neighborhoods and communities. We all play a role in helping our children thrive.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and its National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information created this resource packet in English and Spanish to support individuals, organizations, and communities in their efforts to promote safe children and healthy families. The packet was developed with valuable input from numerous national organizations and Federal partners committed to strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. (A list of partners may be found in the resource directory beginning on page 85.) The Children's Bureau would like to acknowledge Prevent Child Abuse America, for providing design services, and the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, for supporting the printing of the packets and posters.

Enclosed in the packet are many resources that organizations and individuals can use to help keep children safe right in their communities—including information on getting the word out about the need to support families and tip sheets on positive parenting. We encourage you to copy and distribute these materials widely, to spread the word that everyone has a role to play in supporting families in a way that prevents child abuse and neglect. These and other materials can also be downloaded from the Prevention section of the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information website at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention>. We hope these tools will mobilize parents and caring individuals everywhere to get involved in making our communities safe and supportive for families and children.

Strengthening families and preventing child abuse require the shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community. Thank you for participating in this important effort.



Susan Orr, Ph.D.
*Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

