

Preventing child abuse: What you can do in your community

Get to know your neighbors. Problems often seem less overwhelming when you have nearby support. It is also good to know people in your community.

Reach out to families and children in your community. If a family you know appears to be under stress, try to help. You can offer to baby-sit, help with chores and errands or suggest resources that might assist the family.

Volunteer to support children and families. You can become a parent mentor and serve as a source of information for new parents. You can also volunteer at a local service agency to help families get needed support.

Encourage child- and family-serving agencies you know to become more knowledgeable about child abuse prevention.

Be an active community member. Attend town meetings and neighborhood events. Join groups working to improve your community.

Get involved with the local child abuse prevention agency or collaborative in your community. You can call Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia's HELPLINE 1-800-CHILDREN, for help in locating a prevention agency.

Become an advocate. Speak out for policies that strengthen families. Contact your elected officials and ask them to support child- and family-friendly policies and funding for prevention programs.

Make a donation to an organization that serves children and families. These organizations depend on community support to function.

Assure that your local playgrounds and parks are safe places for children and families.

Trust your instincts when concerned about an adult's behavior toward children.

Find out what you can do by calling PCA Georgia's HELPLINE at 1-800-CHILDREN or visiting our website at www.pcageorgia.org.

