



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, today's children represent tomorrow's leaders and New York State remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our children, families and communities; and

Whereas, of paramount concern to all New Yorkers are the problems of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment, which endanger vulnerable young lives and cause long-lasting damage to a child's physical, emotional and cognitive well-being; and

Whereas, the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment requires strong partnerships and cooperation among citizens, organizations, law enforcement and government agencies at the community, state and federal levels; and

Whereas, a leading cause of abuse-related death among children is head trauma, including a fully preventable form of abusive behavior known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, which occurs when a caregiver loses control and forcefully shakes a baby or young child, possibly resulting in a loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death; and

Whereas, New York State's home visiting programs for families are important investments in combating child abuse by making sure families have the support they need in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers share a responsibility in preventing child abuse through diligent reporting of suspected cases of child neglect and maltreatment. Free, online training is now available to provide mandated reporters throughout New York with more accessible training to support proper and prompt reporting of suspected child abuse; and

Whereas, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed each April, provides a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and to encourage individuals and communities to support children and families; and

Whereas, New York State does not tolerate acts of violence against children and continuously strives to protect them from abuse, neglect and maltreatment; all citizens are reminded of the many forms of abuse that occur in our society, with greatest concern for the threat of harm to our precious children, as we remain ever-vigilant in our defense of the very young;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of March in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor