



## *Child Abuse Is Everyone's Concern*

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**Children are Alaska's future.  
They deserve all the encouragement, love, support  
and protection we can give them.**



- **Child abuse and neglect is a community problem.**  
No single agency or individual has the necessary knowledge, skills, resources, or societal mandate to provide the level of assistance and support needed to end child abuse and neglect.
- **Preventing child abuse challenges us to work together.**  
To succeed in ending child abuse, we must continue to weave prevention efforts into the very fabric of our communities – in our schools, workplace, hospitals and health clinics, churches, day care facilities and in each neighborhood, village, city and borough.
- **Strengthening families is at the heart of prevention.** Efforts designed to support and strengthen families help prevent the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- **The majority of parents love their kids and don't intend to harm them.**  
Strengthening families through parent education, decreasing isolation and extending support to parents and caregivers while enhancing community resources, are key strategies in reducing the incident of child abuse and neglect.
- **Parents who have been abusive or neglectful have the capacity to change.**  
It is important to recognize many maltreating parents or caretakers have the capacity to change their abusive/neglectful behavior, given sufficient help and resources to do so.
- **Children deserve to grow up in a safe, secure environment free from violence.**  
Growing up in their own family is optimal for children, as long as their safety is assured. When parents cannot or will not meet their children's needs, removal from the home may be necessary. All efforts to develop a permanent plan for the children should be made as quickly as possible, including steps to keep siblings together.

**Never allow yourself to think stopping child abuse is someone else's problem to address.  
Child abuse is everyone's concern. Be part of the solution.**

Adapted from A Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect: by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (800) FYI-3366 Available on line at: <http://www.calib.com>

