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**NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES RECOGNIZES  
APRIL AS "NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH," HIGHLIGHTING FREE  
SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO NEW YORK CITY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

*ACS Staff, Along with the Mayor's Office and Prevention Services Providers, Gather on the Steps of City Hall to Recognize City's Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse*

**NEW YORK, NY** – In recognition of April as "National Child Abuse Prevention Month," the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) today, along with the Mayor's Office, Deputy Mayor, elected officials Mr. Met, and prevention providers gathered on the steps of City Hall to recognize the City's efforts to prevent abuse, keep children safe, and provide supports for families.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to raise awareness of the fact that child abuse happens and shine a light on the many programs and partners in New York City communities dedicated to helping parents and caregivers keep children safe and families healthy and strong. Recognizing that parenting can be challenging, ACS highlighted the free services and supports available to families with children in New York City. ACS and its community-based providers offer a full range of free, voluntary services and supports, ranging from: mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, homemaking services, as well as access to food, diapers, cribs and more. A directory of ACS prevention services programs is available [here](#) or call (212) 676-7667.

"There is nothing more important than keeping children safe from child abuse, and National Child Abuse Prevention Month not only reminds us to be vigilant, but how simple instructions could save a child's life," said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. "Thank you to all of the staff at ACS, at the provider agencies, and to all New Yorkers for all that you do to protect children each and every day and to ensure families have the support systems they need to thrive."

"Child Abuse Prevention Month is a good time for us to come together to recognize that we all play a role in keeping children safe from abuse," said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. "Thank you to all the prevention provider agencies, ACS, and all community members for all you do for children and families each and every day."

"As a former prosecutor of 22 years and Chief of the Crimes Against Children Bureau, working on behalf of children and families, I saw first-hand how it took just one voice to speak up and save a child's life," said **Ama Dwimoh, Special Counsel to Mayor Adams**. "April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, but it should be every month, every week, and every day of the year, because our responsibility and commitment to our children never ends."

"We are committed to ensuring families have access to the services and supports they need to not only keep their children safe from abuse, but to thrive and be successful," said **ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser**. "During this month (and every day), let us rededicate ourselves to our mission as parents, as neighbors, as child welfare professionals, as New Yorkers. There is no greater responsibility than ensuring our littlest New Yorkers are safe and their families have everything they need to help them grow and thrive."

"Our nationally recognized continuum of prevention services offers families free, voluntary services regardless of immigration status or where they live in New York City. Our role in prevention is to help parents and caregivers keep children safely at home by partnering with families" said **Dr. Jacqueline Martin, ACS Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Prevention Services**. "As we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month, I want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated and committed staff at ACS and our provider agencies, for their tireless work ensuring children and families have the services and supports they need to thrive."

"Efforts to prevent child abuse have too often been misled by our cultural habit of confusing symptoms of poverty for willful neglect and abuse. To make real progress in protecting New York's children, we must dedicate resources to helping families stay together and to meeting their needs in their homes and communities. This is absolutely achievable, but it will take a groundswell of New Yorkers actively demanding their government make these vital investments," said **Senator Jabari Brisport, Chair of New York State Senate Committee on Children and Families**.

"New York City families with children have access to hundreds of prevention resources to assist with a myriad of challenges," said **Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Chair of the New York State Senate Social Services Committee**. "In commemorating National Child Abuse Prevention Month, I offer my sincere thanks to prevention services workers and providers who help young New Yorkers and their families thrive. We must continue to amplify the call for Child Abuse Prevention in our society".

"Prevention is our best tool to keep kids safe and promote best outcomes. If we help kids before they encounter trauma, we can ensure they and their families are set up for a life of success. Thank you to Mayor Adams and the incredible staff at ACS, its sister agencies, Prevent Child Abuse New York, and our statewide network of advocates and individuals who are committed to keeping children and families safe and thriving. We all have a part to play." said **Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Chair, Committee on Children and Families**.

"One productive approach to ending child abuse and neglect is to foster a collaborative approach between families and communities," said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Social Services**. "During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we must raise awareness of this issue and make known the free preventive services and supports that are available to families across New York State. Expanding access to vital assistance like homemaking services, food supports and access to diapers, cribs and other necessities will help strengthen communities and keep our children safe."

"Everyone can play a role in helping support children and families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect," said **New York City Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, Chair of the Committee on General Welfare**. "National Child Abuse Prevention month highlights the importance of community involvement and I'm proud in working with our partners at ACS to help children and families find ways to better support them and thrive in their communities. I want to

thank Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom and Commissioner Dannhauser for their continued commitment to the wellness and safety of our city's children and families."

"Working with ACS, our goal is to help keep children safe by providing families with the services they need," said **David Gaskin, President and CEO of Seamen's Society for Children and Families**. "As we acknowledge National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize and celebrate both our prevention services staff and the families with which they work."

ACS contracts with over 135 prevention programs throughout New York City, serving over 35,000 children each year. [A 2021 survey](#) of families participating in prevention services found that families were pleased with the services and that they helped them. Specifically, approximately **93%** of survey participants said they were happy with the prevention services their families received; and **87%** of participants said that they would recommend these services to a friend and/or family member. Overall, **91%** of survey participants said prevention services are helping them achieve their goals.

To learn more about prevention services in your community, visit our website by clicking here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/child-welfare/prevention-services.page>

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