

Franklin County Children's Task Force



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**April 2011
Newsletter**

... continuing to strengthen families

In these challenging economic times the Franklin County Children's Task Force continues to find innovative and effective ways to support families and children. By working with other social service agencies through the Early Childhood Initiative we've brought to life Supervised Visitation services, identified the need for the promotion of community resources and are in the midst of developing a resource DVD for families in our community.



with help from families

The task force is sustaining time proven events that have become welcome family traditions like; the Children's Festival and Father Daughter Dance. These are made possible by the combined effort of volunteers, staff, and business sponsors demonstrating community commitment.



volunteers



Due to changes in state funding the home visiting program, Maine Families is **PROPOSED** to be eliminated or reduced statewide. We are working hard to ensure that our legislature knows the value of these services and the needs of families in this community. If you would like to make your thoughts known, please contact your state legislator. You can find this information by visiting the web at www.maine.gov/legis/house/townlist.htm

Parent education offerings continue to expand with the Incredible Years now being provided, along with 123 Magic and Nurturing Parents classes. In cooperation with Maine Parent Federation, 8 workshops are scheduled for 2011 for parents who's children may need special services in school.

As we move forward during these uncertain times we still look for opportunities to expand our services and grow. The Franklin County Children's Task Force continues to provide all the core programming you have come to know and rely on and we look forward to 33 more years of supporting our community!
Renee Blanchet, Executive Director



and the community



Help us save money:

E-mail Newsletter? We have received great response to e-mailed newsletters. Email us at fcctf@fcctf.org today to receive a colorful newsletter in this manner.



**Spring Hours:
Monday -Thursday
8:30am to 4:30pm,
Closed on Friday**



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month:

is raising awareness of the effects of child abuse while promoting positive family interactions. This month highlights the partnership between law enforcement, the State of Maine, and the local Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils.

What is Child Abuse:

A threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child.

Why is Child Abuse so serious:

It is well documented that children that have been abused are more likely to experience:

- poor physical health
- poor emotional and mental health
- social difficulties
- cognitive/intellectual dysfunction
- high-risk health behaviors
- behavioral problems

The cost of responding to these impacts are borne not only by the victims and their family but also by society.



Pinwheels for Prevention is a campaign to change the way our nation thinks about prevention, focusing on community activities and public policy to prioritize prevention from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur. Look for the pinwheels!

How to prevent Child Abuse:

- be a nurturing parent - Nurturing Parent and other parent ed classes at FCCTF
- help a friend, neighbor or relative - being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand.
- help yourself - take time out. Don't take it out on your kid.
- never shake a baby - Period of Purple Crying education by FCCTF
- help develop parenting resources - resource library at FCCTF - resource DVD coming
- promote programs in school - Personal Body Safety workshop offered by FCCTF
- monitor your child's television and video viewing - watching violence can harm children
- volunteer at the local child abuse prevention program - at FCCTF
- report suspected abuse or neglect - 1-800-452-1999



Parent Education Schedule:

123 Magic– Saturday April 23rd 9:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

123 Magic– Saturday May 7th 9:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

All at FCCTF. Lunch and child care provided. Cost \$10. Scholarships are available
Call 778-6960 to register. See www.fcctf.org for details.

FCCTF and Maine Parent Federation present:

Developing IEP's– Thursday April 28th 5:30-7:30 P.M..

Can You Hear Me Now– Thursday May 26th 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Great Minds Don't Think Alike – Thursday June 23rd 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Parent to Parent Training– Tuesday September 27th 5:30-7:30 P.M.

All at FCCTF. Dinner and child care provided. Call 778-6960 to register.

New Car Safety Seat Recommendation from AAP

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children and adolescents ages 1 –21. One of the most important jobs a parent can do is to keep you child safe while riding in a vehicle.

All infants and toddlers should ride rear facing until they are 2 years old or have reached the highest weight and height allowed for car seat.

Use a booster until at least age 8. See www.healthychildren.org for details.

Spring Break and Summer Safety Tips

Sun Safety for Babies - under 6 months should be kept out of direct sun

Sun Safety for Kids - choose sunscreen made for children, test on child's back for possible allergic reaction. Select clothes of tightly woven fabrics. Use a cap with a bill, sunglasses with UV protection are good idea.

Sun Safety for Family - sun strongest between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. UV rays can bounce back from sand, snow or concrete. Use SPF 15 at least and apply 30 minutes before going outside

Safety Playing outside - watch for traffic. Seek shelter in case of storm.
Swim in designated areas, never swim alone and be aware of rip tides.

We need your help!
Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in Franklin County!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please make my gift in memory of _____

Please make my gift anonymous

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: FCCTF



Come visit us on: <http://www.facebook.com/facebook#!/profile.php?id=1500589759>

Strengthening Maine Families supports child care providers to help parents become stronger parents. Child care providers learn to approach parents as the experts on their own children, to listen openly to their concerns and ideas, and to work together with parents to find answers to questions and concerns about child development. Rather than giving advice, this approach fosters more trusting relationships between providers and parents, and families are more likely to invite and welcome their child care provider's support.

Getting started with Strengthening Maine Families is easy: fill out the online self assessment, pick one area to work on, choose one strategy found on the website and try it for a month. To learn more, visit www.strengthenme.org or contact SMF Coordinator Amanda Lonsdale at amanda@strengthenme.org or 207-720-0316

Clothing Exchange
Bring A Bag-Take A Bag!

Sizes Newborn to 4T. Bring in a bag of gently worn clothing and exchange it. First-time parents and expectant moms, no exchange is needed for 1st free bag of clothes. Limited maternity items available.

FCCTF Hours : Open Monday–Thursday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Closed on Fridays

