



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious public health issues that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible through the implementation of effective policies, strategic investments, and community-based supports that reduce the economic and human costs associated with child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, a child's early experiences profoundly shape their future, and children thrive when raised by loving caregivers in safe, stable homes with nurturing relationships; and

WHEREAS, families who receive support before a crisis occurs are better equipped to provide safe, healthy, and supportive environments for their children; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, can result in long-term psychological, emotional, and physical consequences that may extend into future generations; and

WHEREAS, strengthening families through access to concrete economic assistance, social services, and community-based supports reduces the likelihood of abuse and neglect and builds a strong foundation for lifelong well-being; and

WHEREAS, effective prevention efforts are built upon partnerships among child welfare professionals, educators, healthcare providers, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and initiatives that foster strong, thriving children and families, and work collaboratively to increase awareness and promote social and emotional well-being in safe, stable, and nurturing environments; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains our most powerful strategy to protect children and strengthen families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, on behalf of the City of Independence, Iowa, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and urge all citizens to recognize this observance by dedicating themselves to improving the quality of life for all children and families in our community.

Together, we can create a community where every child grows up happy, healthy, safe, and filled with hope for the future.

Powered by Hope. Strengthened by Prevention.

City of Independence Mayor Signature

Date

City of Independence Manager Signature

Date