[insert municipality name],
South Carolina Proclamation
Child Abuse Prevention Month

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's future prosperity and quality of life depend on the healthy development of the more than 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state; and insert number of children from [KIDS COUNT data center](https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/99-total-population-by-child-and-adult-populations?loc=42&loct=2#detailed/2/42/false/1095,2048,574,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36/39,40,41/416,417) in County name County

**WHEREAS,** preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational well-being of all children; and

**WHEREAS,** child abuse is a serious public health issue with wide-ranging societal consequences, as data show the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues into adulthood; and

**WHEREAS,** parents and caregivers who have a support system of family and friends, know where to find public resources, and understand how to remain resilient in challenging times are best-equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children; and

**WHEREAS,** statewide and community prevention programs serve as proven and effective ways to reduce child abuse and neglect no matter the geographic region, race or ethnicity, or economic status; and

**WHEREAS,** in fiscal year 2022-2023, there were 8,304 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations with 14,711 children in South Carolina, and XXX investigations with XXX children (insert [data from DSS](https://dss.sc.gov/media/4716/children-in-substantiated-cps-investigations-during-sfy2022-2023-by-age-of-the-child.pdf)) in County name County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** [insert name], [title] of [city/county] in the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

 **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

throughout the municipality name and encourage all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for every child.