***[insert municipality name] Proclamation***

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state, including XXX in XXX County [insert number from KIDS COUNT Data Center](https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6132-children-under-18-years-of-age-by-race-ethnicity?loc=42&loct=5#detailed/5/6308-6353/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/66,67,4262,3,4267/12804,15653), are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of our great state;

**WHEREAS,** childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

**WHEREAS,** childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS,** effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

**WHEREAS,** communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that build strong children and families; and

**WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community in partnership to build awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS,** prevention remains the best defense for our children and families

**WHEREAS,** in fiscal year 2021-2022, there were XX children in XXX County [insert number [from DSS for children in substantiated cases](https://dss.sc.gov/media/3978/children-in-substantiated-cps-investigations-during-sfy2021-2022-by-age-of-the-child.pdf)] in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** [INSERT NAME, TITLE OF CITY/COUNTY] in the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout [insert municipality name] and encourage all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for all families and children.