



How to organize a Celebrate Children Day

As part of your April National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, consider designating a special day to celebrate and appreciate children. More than 150 countries honor children with celebrate children days. For example, April 30 or El Dia de Los Ninos is widely recognized in Latin American Countries, and especially Mexico.

The first step is to decide the scope of your Celebrate Children Day. Are you just going to do it in your community or are you going to make it a regional or a statewide event? Do you want to designate a random day or do you want to tie it in with the Week of the Young Child or with El Dia de Los Ninos? Who will you collaborate with and what events will you promote for Celebrate Children Day?

Implementation

1. When preparing your proclamation for April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, insert a paragraph to designate a day as a Celebrate Children day. Consider the following language:

And do hereby proclaim, April [date] as Celebrate Children Day – a Blue Ribbon Day for Kids – a day for [name of community, county, or state] to celebrate our children, this [community’s, county’s, or state’s] great resource and the leaders of tomorrow.

- To designate the day statewide, work with the organizations or agencies that sponsor or promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month in your state, such as your Children’s Trust Fund, Prevent Child Abuse America chapter or your local children’s hospital. Another option would be to contact your state legislators.

2. Collaborate with others – childcare centers, schools, libraries, the faith-community, and service clubs—to plan and promote special activities for children and their families. Consider the following ideas:

- Distribute pins to local community members, businesses, and schools and ask them to wear blue on Celebrate Children Day.
- Organize a luncheon or picnic and invite local celebrities and legislators to speak.
- Plan a “hands across the community” parade with marching bands and children.
- Hold a walk-a-thon or bowl-a-thon, and urge families to participate.
- Organize a kids’ day at the zoo or local museum.
- Ask your local movie theater to show a special family matinee.
- Hold a poster contest and display the entries at libraries or local businesses.