

Community plays part in preventing child abuse, promoting well-being

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Baby Bear Hugs encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Phillips County a better place for children and families.

By ensuring parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, Baby Bear Hugs can help promote children's social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities.

Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth and families are promoted.

The six protective factors are:

—nurturing and attachment.

—knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development.

—parental resilience.

—social connections.

—concrete supports for parents.

—social and emotional developmental well-being.

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“April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” said Ruth Seedorf, executive director of Baby Bear Hugs.

“Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.”

Baby Bear Hugs is for all “soon to be parents” and families with children under 3 years old.

It offers families ongoing home visits (parent education and support), nurse visitation, programs of Colorado Bright Beginnings, Healthy Living program, Nurturing Parenting and Ages & Stages Developmental and Social & Emotional Screenings.

All services are free of charge, confidential and available to all families.

For more information, contact Baby Bear Hugs, 970-854-2921, or visit www.babybearhugs.org .

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