Young Parents in Lafayette County have been finding parenting assistance and support from the Young Parent Support Group for the past eleven years. This support group is provided to young parents in Lafayette County and the surrounding community by the Lafayette County Health Department. Parenting is one of the hardest jobs any of us will attempt to do. It is very important for these young parents to have the opportunity to build their parenting skills and learn about resources available for them.

To provide more resources to our young families, the Young Parents Support Group has been placed under the umbrella of the Building Tools for Young Parents. Through this expansion we are now providing cribs to qualifying families and have received support from The Children's Trust Fund of Missouri. Other areas of support include a monthly newsletter, a room full of gently used baby clothes, an infant care class and infant massage kits to local parenting programs.

Every decision we make as a community should reflect our concern for our children. The experiences they have as children will have a huge impact on the choices they will make later in life. Education and resources we provide to parents during this critical time will only improve the cultural and social environment for the entire community.

Children's Trust Fund

Missouri's Foundation For Child Abuse Prevention

This program is sponsored with funds from the Lafayette County Health Department and the Children's Trust Fund. Do you want to be a part? Purchase a Children's Trust Fund License Plate, and the funds raised by the sale of this special plate will benefit local child abuse prevention projects. To order, send $25 to Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, PO Box 1641, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1641 or call or call 1.888.826.KIDS (5437)

LAFAYETTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
547 South 13 Highway
Lexington MO 64067
660-259-4371 Fax (660) 259-6250
www.lafayettecountyhealth.org

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Building Tools for Young Parents Presents the Parent Chat Newsletter For the Young Parents Support Group

When: April 12, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Lafayette County Health Department

April is Child Abuse and Prevention month.

The Blue Ribbon Mission

Encourage community and individual involvement in recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

Educate families, children, neighbors, organizations and communities on how to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Assist families in achieving healthy parenting practices through education and resources.

Empower individuals to intervene in abuse and neglect situations when appropriate.

If you suspect child abuse and/or neglect, please call the Missouri Child Abuse or Neglect Hotline at 1-800-392-3738.

Cribs

Every child needs a safe place to sleep. If you are pregnant or have a child less than three months of age, you may qualify for a pack and play with a bassinet. Supplies are limited. To see if you qualify, please call 660-259-4371 for more information.

This opportunity is available through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Lafayette County Health Department.

Immunization Clinics:

Every Monday 1-4 pm

Every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Last Tuesday of each month 8:30-7 pm

Non-Clinic day by appointment only.

In 1982, by Presidential Proclamation, April was declared Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, child abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during this month. In 1989 in Virginia, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse had its early beginnings in a grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse.

You can help prevent child abuse by proudly displaying the official Children's Trust Fund (CTF) license plate on your vehicle. All CTF plates feature the distinctive green child's hand prints logo and a "prevent child abuse" message. CTF's goal is to reach 10,000 active CTF plates, which would equate to $250,000 annually that would be distributed back into local prevention programs throughout the state and support CTF grant activities. **You can do this...** Make an annual contribution of $25 or more to CTF by sending a check or money order to:

Children's Trust Fund
P. O. Box 1641

Children's Trust Fund
Missouri's Foundation For Child Abuse Prevention

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What To Do If You See Child Abuse in a Public Place

Start a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child.

For Example:

- She seems to be trying your patience.
- My child sometimes gets upset like that, too.
- Children can really wear you out sometimes. Is there anything I can do to help?

Divert the child's attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.

For Example:

- That's a great baseball cap. Are you a Cardinals fan?
- I like your t-shirt. Did you get that on vacation?

Look for an opportunity to praise the parent or child.

For Example:

- He has the most beautiful eyes.
- That's a very pretty shirt on your little girl Where did you get it?

If the child is in danger, offer assistance.

For Example:

- If the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand near the child until the parent returns.
- If the child is in immediate danger, call the police!

Avoid negative remarks or looks.

- Negative reactions are likely to increase the parent's stress or anger, and could make matters worse for the child.