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Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

APRIL 2014

World Autism Awareness Day



Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs



April 2nd is World Autism Day. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. People with autism often have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with autism can range from gifted to severely challenged. Scientists have not yet identified what causes autism, however they stress the importance of early diagnosis.

Some signs of autism may include:

- * A child who prefers not to be held or cuddled.
- * Not looking at an object when another person points at the object.
- * A child who avoids eye contact.
- * Repetitive actions over and over.
- * A child who does not play "pretend" games (i.e.: will not pretend

to "feed" a doll).

- * A child who has difficulty adapting when a routine changes.
- * Unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound.

For more information go to www.cdc.gov/actearly and search "autism". For questions about obtaining a developmental assessment contact your local child care nurse consultant or AEA office at www.iowaaea.org.

Child Abuse Awareness Month

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Research has identified 5 protective factors that reduce the risk of child abuse:

Nurturing and Attachment
Developing a close bond with a child helps parents and caregivers relate, respond and communicate with the child.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
Understanding child development can be calming for parents and caregivers, responding appropriately to a child's behavior.

Parental and Caregiver Resilience
Recognizing the signs of stress

and enhancing problem-solving skills can improve the ability to cope.

Social Connections
Identifying a network of family, friends, and neighbors provides support in times of need.

Concrete Support
Access to financial, housing, medical, and other resources and services help meet basic needs.

For more information on preventing child abuse <http://www.pcaiowa.org/>

To report child abuse, please call the Department of Human Services at 1-800-362-2178.

National Playground Safety Week is April 21-25, 2014. Spring is here, the snow is melted, is your playground S.A.F.E.? The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) goal is to prevent playground injuries. The National Action Plan for safety is based on 4 goals:

Supervision: Is there proper supervision?

Age-appropriate Design: Is the playground equipment age appropriate and developmentally appropriate?

Fall Surfacing: Is there appropriate fall surfacing and is it at the correct depth for the height of the equipment?

Equipment Maintenance: Is equipment safe and free of hazards with routine maintenance being performed?

For more information on keeping your playground safe go to www.playgroundsafety.org