

Kane County Health Department Highlights Support for Families During Child-Focused Awareness Weeks

The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is recognizing several national awareness events in April including Week of the Young Child, National Home Visiting Week, and Child Abuse Prevention Month by highlighting programs that help families build strong, healthy foundations for young children.

These observances all share a common goal: supporting families and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed.

A key program supporting families in Kane County is Kane Kares, a free and voluntary program that connects families with registered nurses who provide guidance, education, and support during pregnancy and early childhood. Through home visits, nurses help families with infant care, child development, breastfeeding support, maternal health, and connecting to community resources.

As part of its commitment to early childhood health and development, KCHD, in partnership with Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning, SPARK Aurora, Sugar Grove Public Library, Geneva Public Library, Messenger Public Library, and Gail Borden Public Library, is expanding access to family-friendly online tools that support children's development through Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) Online Family Access. The new, free online tool allows parents and caregivers to complete developmental screenings on their mobile devices, making it easier to monitor milestones in communication, movement, problem-solving, and social skills.

KCHD's iGrow Coordinated Intake Program connects families with free parent support programs that help parents with young children from birth to three years guide their children to succeed in school and life. Trained educators share information about a child's growth and development starting from pregnancy. They also support families by fostering positive relationships with their children and community members.

“Many of the challenges we see in adulthood often have roots in early childhood,” said Michael Isaacson, KCHD Executive Director. “If we want to prevent problems later in life, the most important thing we can do support children and families early. Programs like Kane Kares, iGrow, and our other early childhood programs help ensure children get the care, support, and attention they need during the most important years of development.”

During Week of the Young Child, communities across the country celebrate early learning, young children, and the teachers and families who support them. National Home Visiting Week recognizes the impact of voluntary home visiting programs that strengthen families and promote child well-being. Child Abuse Prevention Month emphasizes the importance of building strong, supportive communities that help prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. These efforts highlight the importance of supporting families during the earliest years of a child’s life.

Families interested in learning more about the programs highlighted above, and all of KCHD’s programs for parents and families can visit:

<https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Maternal-Child.aspx>

Those interested in Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) Online Family Access can contact any of the participating organizations, or the Kane County Health Department at askus@kanecountyil.gov.