

## Resources in Mecklenburg County

24-hour abuse/neglect hotline.....980-31-HELPS  
Department of Social Services.....704-336-3000  
Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center..704-335-2760  
Safe Alliance.....704-332-9034  
Domestic violence hotline.....704-332-2513  
Council for Children’s Rights.....704-372-7961  
District Attorney’s Office.....704-686-0700  
Teen Health Connection.....704-381-8336  
Guardian Ad Litem’s Office.....704-686-0075  
Thompson Child & Family Focus.....704-536-0375  
Levine Children’s Hospital.....704-381-2000  
Hemby Children’s Hospital.....704-384-4021  
Children’s Home Society.....704-334-9955  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police.....704-336-7600  
Cornelius Police.....704-892-1363  
Davidson Police.....704-892-5131  
Huntersville Police.....704-464-5400  
Matthews Police.....704-847-4069  
Mint Hill Police.....704-545-1085  
Pineville Police.....704-889-2231  
Prevent Child Abuse NC.....919-829-8009

For more information,  
visit [Meck4Kids.org](http://Meck4Kids.org)

[Facebook.com/Meck4Kids](https://www.facebook.com/Meck4Kids)

[Instagram.com/Meck4Kids](https://www.instagram.com/Meck4Kids)

[@Meck4Kids on Twitter](https://twitter.com/Meck4Kids)

## About

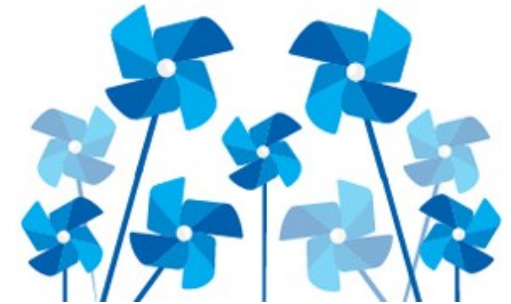
### The Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team

The Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team is a group of child-serving organizations and individuals who have joined forces to help build public awareness around the issue of child abuse prevention. We believe that we all have a role to play in making sure that our community is a place where children and families are able to thrive. The team seeks to raise the public consciousness of child abuse, educate the community about mandatory reporting laws, and promote prevention strategies and local resources that support children and families.

**#PassThePinwheel**  
Child Abuse Prevention Month



Visit [www.Meck4Kids.org](http://www.Meck4Kids.org)  
to find out how to plant  
your own pinwheel garden!



# Keeping Kids Safe

We all play a role

Let’s work together to ensure children  
are safe, healthy, and nurtured  
all year round.



Mecklenburg Child Abuse  
Prevention Team

# Let's work together to grow great kids.

## Strong Communities Grow Strong Kids and Families

Communities have a great impact on the lives of children and families. Just as plants are more likely to thrive in a garden with good soil and plenty of sunlight and water, families are more likely to thrive in nurturing communities. We all benefit when families have the resources and support to be successful and we can ALL play a role in Growing Great Kids

- **Get to know our neighbors** —problems seem less overwhelming if support is nearby.
- **Help a family under stress**—offer to assist with chores or errands, suggest resources that might help. As parents, be willing to ask for help or information for ourselves.
- **Promote parenting education**— identify formal and informal opportunities to share information on child development and effective parenting
- **Be an active community member** — lend a hand at a local school, community or faith-based organization, children's hospital, child advocacy center, social services agency, or other place serving children and families.
- **Learn how to recognize and report signs of child abuse and neglect**— reporting your concerns may protect a child and get help for a family in need.

## Recognize the signs

Children who are neglected or physically or sexually abused may display the following:

- unexplained bruises or injuries that don't match the history given
- difficulty concentrating
- changes in behavior or emotions, such as withdrawal, extreme passivity, or aggression and delinquency
- unusual wariness or fear of adults
- falling grades, regressive behavior, sleep disturbances or nightmares
- poor hygiene, inappropriate clothes for the weather, signs of malnutrition or unattended medical needs
- anxiety, depression, or self-destructive behaviors including self-harm/suicide, substance abuse or running away
- bullying or being bullied
- developmentally inappropriate or concerning sexual behaviors or knowledge
- delays in physical, emotional or intellectual development

## Report concerns

By law, everyone in North Carolina has an obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect. State law says that "any person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected...or has died as the result of maltreatment, shall report the case of that juvenile to the director of the department of social services in the county where the juvenile resides or is found."

## Raise awareness

Since 1983, April has been proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month. Locally, a team of child serving organizations in Mecklenburg County has joined forces to educate the community about preventing and reporting child maltreatment. Those agencies created the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team. Learn more about us at [www. Meck4Kids.org](http://www.Meck4Kids.org)

