

51 Ways to Celebrate Parenting Awareness Month Indiana 2012

Celebrating people raising children is a positive step in helping to build vibrant communities and keep children and families socially and economically healthy. Parenting Awareness Month Indiana (PAMI) is an annual reminder of the important role parents and children have in our society. We offer the following ideas, *adapted from the Prevention Network Program*, to help you or your organization celebrate Indiana parents and families. Call 219-886-1111 for additional information.

Form a local PAM coalition and begin planning parenting and family celebrations and activities for PAMI 2012 and beyond.

Invite other organizations in the community to join your efforts.

Join forces and resources with other awareness campaigns. March is also: *National Reading Month; National Nutrition Month; National Talk to Your Teen About Sex Month*. April is: *Month of the Young Child; Child Abuse Prevention Month; Alcohol Awareness Month*.

Create a local calendar or flyer listing parenting education classes and parent network/group meetings.

Create a calendar or flyer of local Parenting Awareness Month events. Distribute same as posters and resource lists.

Create a local list of free or low cost things parents can do with children. Distribute as a poster, tray liner, or handout in libraries, schools, and in many other inventive ways.

Prepare folders with Parenting Awareness Month materials to be given to parents at parent/teacher conferences. Have students decorate the folder for their parent(s).

Design a family friendly slogan/logo and have a sweatshirt/t-shirt sale.

Take items from the PAM Packet and create a bound booklet for families in your school, church, or community. Include local resource information.

Take PAM posters and bookmarks to local libraries and bookstores for distribution.

Encourage libraries and bookstores to provide a special display during April featuring their parenting books and other multimedia parenting information. Ask them to include information about your organization, events, you plan, and the parenting resource list you have compiled.

Encourage your public library to develop a list of their parenting books, tapes, and videos. Find different ways to distribute this list to parents.

Hold a community or countywide 2012 PAM kickoff.

Help plan and/or promote parenting conferences held during April and throughout the year, and encourage parents and others who work with parents and children to attend.

Create a list of community resources for parents, print and distribute widely—through businesses, schools, churches, libraries, agencies, bulletin boards. Ask grocery stores to stuff in grocery bags.

Prepare a promotional video for local access cable. Do a series that features various parenting resources in your community.

Hang a 2012 PAM poster on your front door.

Take a PAM poster everywhere you can think of—schools libraries, day care centers, places of workshop, work sites, local bulletin boards, city hall, doctor's offices, senior centers, and our hairdresser, your mechanic, your neighbors

Create a PAMI display in schools and local businesses.

Create a portable PAMI display. Make it available at local PAMI parenting activities.

Seek resolutions from local governing bodies that support PAMI goals and affirm parenting (sample resolution in PAM Kit).

Work with local 2-11 service, or work with a local agency to provide a parenting helpline.

Talk about PAMI in your own family.

Plan PAMI events that involve youth and senior citizens.

Focus on empowering people who raise children and supporting the good work parents do. Use titles, slogans, presenters, and materials that praise instead of blame.

Consider non-traditional sites for parenting education – work sites, recreational centers, block club meetings, and local shopping centers.

Enlist local newspapers to feature parenting articles throughout the month of April.

Get parenting messages on local billboards.

Visit local media; involve them in your efforts.

Enlist publications of local organizations, church bulletins, community newspapers, etc. in featuring parenting information during April.

Host a special event for military families.

Hold a resource fair with/for family serving organizations so they can become familiar with all resources and materials available in the community.

Designate a different parenting theme for each week in April and plan weekly activities around each theme.

Plan special activities with a focus on fathers and celebrate the importance of fathers in children's lives. Involve fathers in the planning.

Encourage daycare providers to plan fun parenting education opportunities. Let parents have input about resources and activities they'd like or need.

Host an "appreciate" breakfast, lunch, or dinner for parents and other caregivers – or make it an "Appreciation Day!"

Host a family workshop focusing on reading in the home, storytelling, quality television viewing. Organize a "family reading night" with your local literacy council, school district, church, work site, day care center, etc.

Host a community "Family Dinner" with guest speakers or other fun activities.

Conduct poster and essay contests – through churches, schools, or the community at large.

Conduct educational events and community forums on parenting issues. Consider days, times, locations, and costs that make the events accessible to most parents. Provide childcare.

Work with local radio stations to run "Did You know..." radio spots featuring local parenting and family resources and parenting tips. Create and distribute a local calendar to match.

Contact your legislators to involve them in local PAMI campaigns. Request a free copy of Citizen's Guide to State Government.

Work with faith communities to highlight PAMI in newsletters, bulletins, discussion groups, and from the pulpit.

Encourage a local focus on grandparenting and other kinship care issues and resources.

Work with a local hospital to provide parenting tips and local resource lists to new parents.

Encourage local businesses to provide paycheck stuffers with a PAMI message and the 10 parenting tips.

Plan a Parent's Day, Parenting Fair, or Family Fun Fest at a mall, or other community area, showcasing family and parenting resources and providing family friendly activities.

Conduct free parenting education workshops throughout the month of April. Provide childcare.

Host a PAMI celebration and give awards to "parent/family friendly" employers.

Work with your local school district to hold weekly family nights throughout the month of April. Decide on a theme. Involve parents and youth.