Positive Childhoods Start With Us

Building safe, supportive communities where every child can thrive.

Every child deserves to grow up surrounded by safety, connection, and opportunity. We all have a stake in stake in building positive experiences for North Carolina children. Together, we can strengthen families and ensure every child lives a happy, purposeful life with hope for the future.

Positive Childhoods Matter

Families are stronger when they have the connections, knowledge, and resources they need to navigate challenges. Children grow up in families, and families grow within communities. When we strengthen the environments around families, children are more likely to thrive.

There are key supports that help families manage stress and nurture healthy child development, including strong social connections, practical support in times of need, and opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn and grow.

At the same time, children need Positive Childhood Experiences that help them grow, thrive, and feel connected. Research shows these experiences — such as supportive relationships with caring adults, community traditions, a sense of belonging in high school, and feeling safe at home — build resilience and support lifelong health and well-being.

When we invest in strong families and supportive communities, children are more likely to grow up safe, healthy, and connected. Positive childhoods start with us.

Recognizing and Responding When Children Need Help

Knowing the signs of child maltreatment and responding early can make a life-changing difference for a child. By law, every adult in North Carolina is a mandatory reporter, meaning they are required by law to report suspected abuse or neglect. There are free resources and online trainings you can take to learn the signs of abuse and neglect and know how to make a report.

But protecting children is not only about responding after harm occurs. We can also think of ourselves as mandated supporters.

A mandated supporter recognizes that when families are connected to support, resources, and caring relationships, they are better able to care for their children and keep them safe. By helping families access what they need, we can prevent abuse and neglect before it happens.

When communities support families, children are more likely to grow up safe, healthy, and connected.

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Positive Childhood Alliance NORTH CAROLINA

PREVENT FIRST NC

Positive Childhoods Start With Us

Working Together to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

In every community, both harm and hope exist. Children and families need support when harm occurs, and they also need communities working together to prevent it from happening in the first place. That's why Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina (CACNC) and Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina (PCANC) are proud to co-lead Prevent First NC, North Carolina's first statewide coalition dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse.

The coalition brings partners together to strengthen prevention efforts, share knowledge, and build a coordinated approach to protecting children across our state.

By connecting organizations and individuals like you, Prevent First NC is helping move prevention from isolated efforts to a shared statewide strategy that strengthens families and communities.

Learn more and join the coalition.

How You Can Take Action

Positive Childhoods Start With Us. You can help create positive childhoods by:

- Learning more about and joining the Prevent First NC coalition
- Connecting with your local Child Advocacy Center
- Connecting with your local Family Resource Center

Together, we can build communities where every child grows up safe, supported, and surrounded by hope.

Learn More & Get Connected

Positive Childhood Alliance NORTH CAROLINA

positivechildhoodalliancenc.org

children's advocacy centers of north carolina

cacnc.org

PREVENT FIRST NC

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