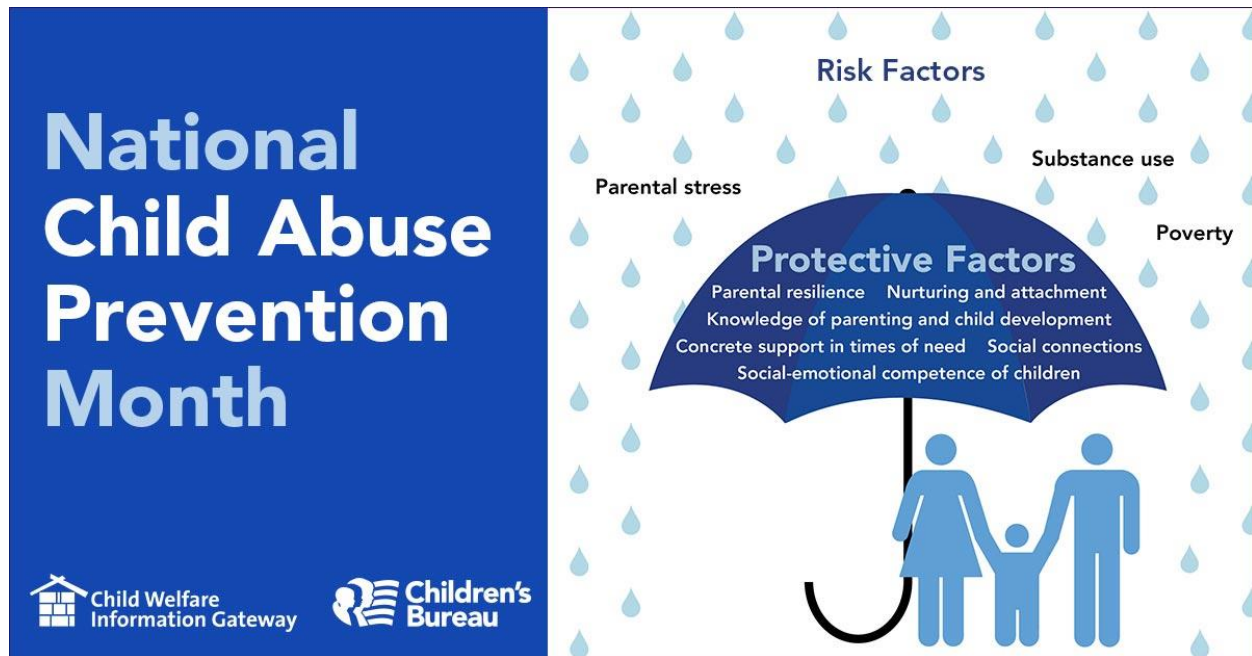


# April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Exposure to child abuse and neglect can have lifelong consequences to a person's physical and mental wellbeing (Lippard, E. and Nemeroff, C. 2019). Depression, anxiety, obesity and cardiovascular problems are some of the risk factors for those who have experienced abuse (DOH, 2016). The stress of safety concerns, unemployment, loss of loved ones, economic challenges and parenting during Covid-19 pandemic have increased the risk of child abuse, as well as having abuse go undetected.

We all need to work together to prevent child abuse. Schools play a role as mandated reporters but can also assist parents in finding help before a crisis occurs. Your child's teacher, school counselor and school nurse are here to help you or answer questions if you need help.

Parents also play an important role in protecting children by teaching them what is safe and respectful behavior and what is questionable behavior of others. If you are concerned about a child being abused, you can report it to Childline at 1-800-932-0313.

*Nurse Farley*