

Better Futures

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casa de los niños

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, National Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month recognizes the necessity of communities working together **to promote the social and emotional well-being of all children and their families**. **Strong protective factors** in families such as supportive social networks and a good parent-child attachment can build resilience in children and parents.

Casa de los Niños has been committed to prevention of abuse and neglect for nearly 50 years! And we work tirelessly to build these protective factors in families by focusing on:

Parental Resilience

Nurturing and Attachment

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Parental Knowledge of Child Development and Parenting Skills

Concrete Support for Parents

Social Connections

During the month of April, we all need to come together to raise awareness about child and family well-being! All of the programs of Casa de los Niños are effective strategies that support families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Child Abuse Prevention starts with each one of us. Together we can make it easier for families to access support services and learn how to identify and build on family strengths.

Supportive social networks and a good parent-child attachment can build resilience in children and parents.



Message from Susie Huhn, CEO

April Child Abuse Prevention Month is an important reminder that every community needs to invest in the future of their children! And prevention is at the heart of everything Casa de los Niños does every day. In this issue we focus on some of our amazing prevention programs, to share with you the many different ways we work with families, aiming to provide them with what they need when it is needed. Whether it is helping new first-time mothers have a healthy pregnancy and be the best parent for their child, or working directly in homes to help parents be their child's first teacher and ensure they are ready to start school, we have hundreds of skilled professionals working directly with families in need every day to keep kids safe and help families thrive. By providing all families with equal opportunity and access to the support they need, we can help improve the safety and well-being of children and youth in Tucson. As you are reading this, I know that you care about the well-being of children and families in our community. Thank you for the support you provide for this critical work!



Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature of Susie Huhn in black ink.

Susie Huhn

Join Our April Parent Education Classes Designed for You!

CHILD ABUSE – IT'S EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM

This class provides critical information on what signs to expect from a child who is a victim of abuse, the causes/risk factors of child abuse and neglect that occurs in a home, and how to properly make a report of abuse to DCS and the mandated reporting guidelines in Arizona (Offered in English and Spanish).

ALTERNATIVES TO SPANKING

Parents learn positive guidance techniques and non-violent means to discipline young children. This class offers many examples and alternative methods that can be used to deter negative behavior and build positive outcomes for the child(ren) and family.

COMMUNICATING WITH RESPECT

Communicating with children can sometimes feel challenging. The key for parents and caregivers is to communicate thoughts and feelings in a manner that does not purposefully hurt them. This class offers strategies and tips to improve communication with children and parents/caregivers which helps to build family functioning.

For the full schedule or to register, please visit casadelosninos.org/parenteducation.



Prevent Child Abuse



Source: Dr. Deborah Daro,
Prevent Child Abuse America

Here are 10 reasons to prevent child maltreatment before it hurts children and communities:

- 1 Child maltreatment can be **fatal**.
- 2 Child maltreatment can stymie a child's normal **growth and development**.
- 3 Child maltreatment is **costly** for many social institutions.
- 4 Child maltreatment costs continue to **multiply** over time.
- 5 Child maltreatment victims may **repeat the violent acts** that they experienced.
- 6 Treatment services, while critical, are often **ineffective** in permanently altering parental behaviors.
- 7 Prevention programs targeted at parents before they become abusive or neglectful **reduce** the likelihood for future maltreatment.
- 8 Prevention programs targeted at children can **improve a child's awareness** of how best to avoid child maltreatment and other unsafe practices.
- 9 Child abuse prevention efforts serve as a way to **combat other social problems** of concern to the public and to policy makers.
- 10 Child abuse prevention creates a more compassionate society, one which places a **high value on the welfare of children**.

Are Safe Exchange Zones Safe For Custody Exchanges?

Casa de los Niños Supervised Visitation Program (CDLN SV Program) is a member of the **Supervised Visitation Network** (SVN), a membership organization of professionals who provide supervised visitation and access services to families. Casa de los Niños Supervised Visitation Program and the Supervised Visitation Network are concerned about the use of "Safe Exchange Zones" at police department parking lots for custody exchanges. The original intent of the "Safe Exchange Zones" was to provide a safe place for online transactions like Craigslist, but increasingly they are being suggested as custody exchange locations as well.



While this may seem like a good idea, if you are concerned about your safety when exchanging your children with another parent, this does NOT offer sufficient security measures to minimize or prevent physical or verbal assaults common in high-conflict divorces. In fact, there have been violent—and even fatal—incidents that have occurred during custody exchanges in front of police stations.

The Casa de los Niños Supervised Visitation Program provides safe, supervised exchanges of children in custody cases that minimize the chances of violence by keeping parties separate during the provision of service, enforcing staggered arrival times to prevent stalking and other altercations, conducting thorough intakes of all parties to understand the issues present with each family, and other measures that have proven to be effective. An unmanned area with security cameras only helps law enforcement capture perpetrators after tragedies have occurred and does nothing to prevent children from witnessing highly-charged emotional conflicts that commonly occur during exchanges. SVN and the CDLN SV program understand the unique emotional and physical safety risks that require careful preparation and training of those providing supervised exchanges.

Casa de los Niños Supervised Visitation Program is an accredited provider as certified by the Council on Accreditation as well as a service provider for the Pima County Superior Court and follows the SVN published minimum standards that address all aspects of the provision of services, including a section on providing safety and security for all participants. These standards are posted at www.svnworldwide.org.

For more information about Casa de los Niños Supervised Visitation Program, please call Danna Lopez at 520-882-7977 or 520-624-5600 x12100.

We're About Prevention

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we share some thoughts from our prevention program leadership teams.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Audrey Levy, BSN, RN
Bridget Werchan, BSN, RN
Program Supervisors



When preparing to be a parent for the first time, there is much change and many questions to be answered. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Nurse Home Visitors (NHVs) are specially trained, registered nurses

who bring clinical expertise and education to new parents who are navigating challenges and risks. Our team of NHVs provide regularly-scheduled home visits from early pregnancy until the child's second birthday. NFP program goals are to improve and support pregnancy outcomes, the child's health and development, and the client's self-sufficiency. NFP NHVs do not replace obstetricians, midwives, or pediatricians; they enhance and provide guidance beyond the medical provider's office where time can be limited. NFP NHVs develop a therapeutic relationship with each client and build bridges to champion clients' strengths, using them to address risk factors as assessed by the NHV. By using the nursing process, NHVs create a plan of care and provide nursing interventions, education, support, and resources that include but are not limited to: childbirth; mental health; client's blood pressure and weight gain throughout pregnancy; family planning; nutrition; medication education; breastfeeding, formula feeding, and introduction of solids; infant growth, growth curves, developmental milestones and brain development; injury prevention and personal safety; and infection prevention.

"The strength of Nurse-Family Partnership lies in the therapeutic relationship between the client and her nurse home visitor. This allows the nurse to tailor the program to each individual client's strengths, challenges, needs, goals, and dreams. We see impactful outcomes because our clients trust their nurse home visitors, and our nurse home visitors take the time to listen to their clients, assess need, and develop individualized nursing plans of care."

Audrey Levy

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Irma Marquez,
Program Supervisor



"I have worked with the in-home programs of Casa de los Niños since 2008 and was here for the implementation of Parents as Teachers in 2012. It has been a privilege to witness the amazing transformation families experience with our awesome parent educators! With the solid, evidence-based model of Parents as Teachers, our team can help to affect real change in families and ensure that kids are ready to start school."

Irma Marquez

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Carol Orr Bolger, Program Coordinator

Parent education classes will help you...

- Learn about child development for all ages and stages, babies to teenagers
- Discover and practice strategies to improve communication with your children
- Identify new, positive discipline techniques
- Acquire new strategies to help you deal with the stress and challenges of parenting
- Interact and engage with other parents
- Increase the quality of your interactions with your children



"These classes have helped me so much. I did not realize how much my own behavior could change what I thought was bad behavior in my son. We have both benefited so much. I used to feel like I had to yell all of the time to keep things in control, but I learned new ways to discipline in more positive ways, and he is so much calmer and happier! Thanks so much!"

Gerri, mom of six-year-old son

WELL-CHILD & FAMILY CARE

John Elliot, Program Supervisor

This is a wonderful program that Casa de los Niños provides at the El Pueblo Clinic of Rio Health. Our developmental specialists provide developmental, sensory and social-needs screenings for patients birth to five years old. By providing this additional level of care for families, we are able to identify issues early and provide services and resources that they otherwise would not be accessible. These early interventions are truly changing the course of some of our youngest children in the community!

John Elliot



KELLY EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Meghan Briceland, Center Director (top photo)

Emily Gallardo, Assistant Center Director

Every child deserves access to high-quality early education to meet their full potential. Casa de los Niños is committed to making this resource affordable and accessible to all families!

The benefits of early education:

- Have better language skills
- Are well-prepared to start kindergarten
- Get along better with teachers and friends
- Are less likely to repeat a school year
- Are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college
- Create a pathway for success!

"We are so proud of this center, our staff, and the amazing families we get to work with! Our teachers and staff give 100% of themselves each day in order to ensure our students are receiving excellent care and learning opportunities, and we are honored and humbled to be part of this important resource for the Tucson community!"

Meghan Briceland and Emily Gallardo



Child Abuse Prevention Can Start **With Your Support!**

Will you take a moment to use this envelope to make a gift for Child Abuse Prevention Month? Community support is vital to provide the resources necessary to keep kids safe and healthy and to ensure the well-being of families. **Every dollar helps!**

High Quality First Rating for Kelly Early Education Center

Meghan Briceland, *Center Director*
Emily Gallardo, *Assistant Center Director*

This past December, Casa de Los Niños Kelly Early Education Center applied for enrollment with Quality First. Our center was assessed on the quality of our learning environments according to the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3), and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Assessors look for enriching, engaging learning environments which offer many and varied opportunities for children to discover, explore, play and learn, as well as meaningful ways in which our educators use the materials available and interact with their students. After assessments are scored, a Quality First Star Rating is given.

Kelly Early Education Center is thrilled to announce that we have received a 4-Star Quality Plus Rating! We are proud of the hard work and dedication to our center that went into this achievement. Our teachers and staff give 100% of themselves each day in order to ensure our students are receiving excellent care and learning opportunities, and we are honored and humbled to be recognized for this by Quality First.



We Are Looking for Great People to Join Our Team!

Are you **dedicated, compassionate, solutions-focused**? We have open positions across the organization!

For more information, check out casadelosninos.org/employment.



Lizbeth Canez-Pompa Shares Her Experience Working at Casa de los Niños

"I have been working for Casa de los Niños for 7 years, and during this time I have had several growth opportunities. I have had the privilege of working as an overnight Primary Care Worker, Preschool Supervisor, Care Coordinator, Donor Records and Stewardship Specialist, and Individual Gifts Specialist. Working in all these different positions and programs at Casa de los Niños has given me the opportunity to have a positive impact on people's lives and make a difference in different ways. I count myself very lucky to be able to make a living doing work that is in alignment with my values and the things that I believe in. I am very thankful for the opportunity to be able to come to work every day for an organization that is making a difference in our community and where I feel that I am personally making a significant contribution to helping others improve their lives.

I also feel very blessed to be working with professionals that I can learn from and who will push me to take on new and challenging opportunities. I love that I work with people who all share the common goal of supporting our community who are transforming our shared beliefs and hopes into action.

I have recently accepted the Individual Gifts Specialist position. I am very excited to work on building strong relationships with individuals

who understand and care about Casa de los Niños and our impact in the Tucson community, and I look forward to continuing spreading awareness about the organization.

It is very rewarding to be a part of something larger that makes a difference, and I am looking forward to continuing to grow and contribute to the success this great organization that touches the lives of thousands of children and families in our community!"

THE MISSION of Casa de los Niños
is to promote
CHILD WELL-BEING and
FAMILY STABILITY in our community.

the
voice
for change
advocacy
children



casa de los niños

CHANGING LIVES FOR GENERATIONS

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- Go to smile.amazon.com
- Log into your account, and you'll be prompted to select your charity. Type "Casa de los Niños Tucson" into the search box, and click the "Select" button.

After that, simply shop at smile.amazon.com, or set the Amazon app to activate AmazonSmile to have them donate from your purchase to Casa de los Niños!

Shop to support Casa de los Niños!

When you shop at Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to our organization.

It's the same Amazon. Once you sign up for AmazonSmiles, the foundation does the rest.



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!

Please Make Your Tax Credit Gift to Help Children and Families

Your gift made prior to April 15, 2022 can qualify for the Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization tax credit.

Casa de los Niños is a **Qualified Charitable Organization**. Your gift may entitle you to a credit of up to **\$400 as an individual** or **\$800 as a couple** on your Arizona State tax return. Our QCO Code is 22048.

For more information regarding your state tax credit, please visit azdor.gov or consult your tax advisor.

To make a gift, visit casadelosninos.org/donate, email rmccafferty@casadelosninos.org, or call 520.624.5600 x11939.

Thank you!

