

# April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



# April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to reflect on what it takes to ensure all children and families can live purposeful, happy lives with hope for the future.

This year's theme, Pinwheels of Possibility, reminds us of what is possible in a child's life or community. Small acts can have a huge impact.

So, this year, as we celebrate Child Abuse Prevention month, let's take small acts together to create pinwheels of possibility.

Every act that builds protective factors in families is prevention. It is a way to open up the possibility of a better tomorrow for everyone. This can be a parent spending quality time with their child, a community gathering to find common ties that bind us all, or a neighbor grocery shopping for a family that can't get to the store. Each blue pinwheel you see can be a reminder to inspire us all to support children having joyful and happy childhoods.

Proceeds from the pinwheel sales go to the Children's Trust of Washington, housed at DCYF. This fund pays for free publications year-round, providing support on topics like the protective factors, safe sleep, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs) and abusive head trauma.

In addition to our pinwheels, we also want to invite everyone in Washington to participate in Wear Blue Day on April 10th to stand in solidarity against child abuse. It's easy – just wear blue!

Our hope is that you will find this resource guide to be helpful in your own involvement in this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month. We encourage you to use the materials in your own community/organization and share widely. Prevention is possible and it starts with you!

Though April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month, we also want to emphasize the importance of raising awareness year-round.

By partnering with communities that work with families and build protective factors, we can nurture strong, healthy and resilient families across Washington state.

From our family to yours, thanks for your support.

*The Strengthening Families Washington Team*



**Prevent Child Abuse  
Washington**

Centering families through every turn.



Order your pinwheels here

**With families  
at the center,  
the possibilities  
are *endless*.**



**Pinwheels of  
POSSIBILITY**

Learn more at [pcaamerica.org](http://pcaamerica.org).

**Prevent  
Child  
Abuse  
America®**

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults;  
and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment to ensure they reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect often occur when people find themselves in stressful situations without community resources and do not know how to cope; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure every family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, no one person can do everything, but everyone can do something, and together, we can create change for the better; and

**WHEREAS**, dialing the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) toll-free number, 1-866-363-4276, to report abuse and neglect, makes it easier to protect the vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, wearing or displaying a pinwheel in April will serve as a positive reminder that together, we can prevent child abuse and keep children safe;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

### ***Child Abuse Prevention Month***

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in protecting and nurturing our children.



Signed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026

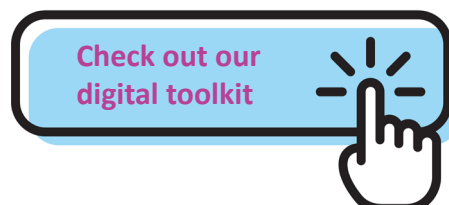
Handwritten signature of Bob Ferguson in blue ink.

Governor Bob Ferguson

# Let's Get Social!

Social media is a great way to get the message out - and it can be really easy! Here's some suggestions:

- The pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse prevention, reminding us of the bright futures every child deserves. Color your own pinwheel and share it with us to spread the message of hope! #CAPMonth2026 #PCAWA
- Primary prevention focuses on stopping child abuse and neglect before it starts, fostering strong communities and supportive families to help all children thrive. Together, we can create lasting change! #CAPMonth2026 #PCAWA
- Find out how local resources can help families and children in your community thrive. Family Resource Centers are a great source of support in the community. In addition to concrete supports, FRCs can provide social and emotional support as well, like the [Mothering Together program at First Steps Family Support Center in Port Angeles](#). You can find our more information in our report on FRCs in Washington State [here](#). #PCAWA #CAPMonth2026
- Why do we wear blue? It's more than a color; it's a symbol of our shared responsibility. Hear from our community why they'll wear blue on April 10. Share your story in the comments! #WearBlueDay2026
- Talk about it: What are you grateful for today? Why? #PCAWA #CAPMonth2026
- Positive experiences early in life are key to a child's development. Let's help every child have the opportunity to build positive childhood experiences that last a lifetime. #PCAWA #CAPMonth2026
- Fathers and male caregivers play an important role in child abuse prevention. Today, we celebrate their efforts and highlight their importance. Find out more about the Washington Fatherhood Council's work [here](#). #CAPMonth2026 #WAFatherhoodCouncil
- Concrete supports: Access to basic supports and services that addresses a family's needs and helps minimize stress caused by challenges. Find out how one Pierce County program is changing lives [here](#). #PCAWA #CAPMonth2026 #ProtectiveFactors
- Little kids can come with big emotions. Learning how to communicate with your children can bring success to families and communities. Find out how Multicultural Child + Family Hope Center in Tacoma is supporting families [here](#). #ProtectiveFactors #CAPMonth2026
- Did you know that community-based prevention programs can reduce child abuse by up to 20%? The Strengthening Families Washington team at DCYF works to fund capacity building for programs aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect in communities across the state. You can find out more [here](#). #PCAWA
- Resilience grows through connection, support, and access to resources. When people feel safe, supported, and valued, healing and hope are more possible. Hear what students at Echo Glen have to say about what Resilience means to them in [Reflecting Resilience](#). #CAPMonth2026 #ProtectiveFactors #PCAWA



Friday, April 10

is

# Wear Blue Day

Why do we wear blue? It's more than a color; it's a symbol of our shared responsibility.

Wear Blue Day is an easy way to show you care about children and families.

Wearing blue can start conversations about helping families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

Small actions, like wearing a blue shirt, can lead to bigger talks and more awareness in the community.

When you wear blue, you show that supporting families and keeping children safe is important where you live.



April 10 is  
Wear Blue Day

 **Prevent Child Abuse  
Washington**  
Centering families through every turn.

As pinwheels spin across communities this April, let them remind us of what is possible when we listen to families, invest in prevention, and act proactively together. **Prevention makes possibility real.**

# Available This Year

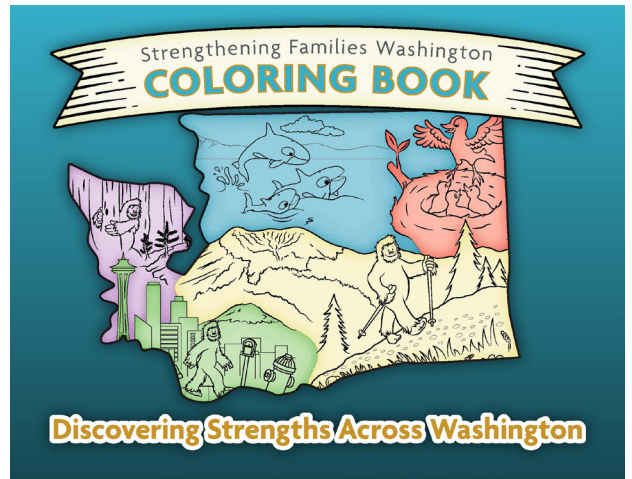
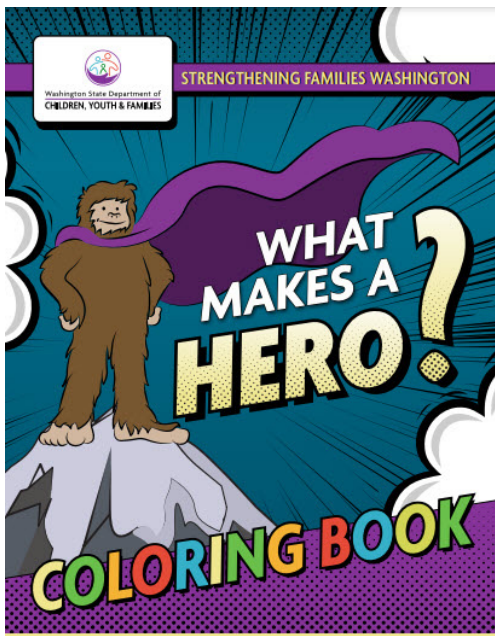
In addition to [pinwheels](#), there are several items that have been developed for your organization or families and community members.



[Find The Strengths Protective Factors Poster](#)  
or our [Plant your own Pinwheel scene poster](#)

*Available in both English and Spanish for all!*

That Leads Back to Our [Protective Factors Coloring Book](#)



And Our [What Makes a Hero Coloring Book](#)



*Order all of these (and more) at the QR code*

*Contact [StrengtheningFamilies@DCYF.WA.GOV](mailto:StrengtheningFamilies@DCYF.WA.GOV) for more information*

# HEROES ARE EVERYWHERE!



April is

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Let a parent, caregiver, guardian (or Sasquatch) know why they're a HERO to you!

Find out more at

<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/sfwa>



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

## Ways You Can Be A Hero

Bring a meal to family

Support accessibility in schools, playgrounds or your community

Connect a family with services - early intervention, diaper bank, food pantry or perinatal mental health services

Support - or become - a foster family

*How can you be a hero today?*

## CHILDREN'S TRUST OF WASHINGTON

The Children's Trust of Washington and the Prevent Child Abuse Washington state chapter is housed within the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) and administered by Strengthening Families Washington. Strengthening Families Washington focuses on helping families strengthen family bonds, understand childhood development and cope with the challenge of parenting through building the five Protective Factors that are known to help reduce child abuse and neglect. By reaching out to parents and encircling them with support, we can help strengthen families, which protects children and builds strong communities overall. Preventing child abuse and neglect is an important way to promote healthy child and family development.

## Protective Factors:



Knowledge of child development



Concrete supports



Parental resilience



Social and emotional competence/nurturing and attachment



Social connections



### YOU CAN HELP!

Although a good portion of our work is funded through our federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention grant, we do also fund our Children's Trust work through the following sources.



#### Keep Kids Safe License Plate

<https://dol.wa.gov/vehicles-and-boats/license-plates/get-custom-plates/special-design-plates/keep-kids-safe>

When you purchase a Keep Kids Safe license plate, you help keep children of all ages healthy and safe. Proceeds from each plate are invested into communities throughout Washington to support programs and services that help protect children and strengthen families.



#### Heirloom Birth Certificate

<https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/vital-records/ordering-vital-record/birth-record>

Celebrate a new life with the official Washington State Heirloom Birth Certificate. A lasting memory of a baby's birth, a reminder of a cherished grandchild, the Heirloom Birth Certificate is the perfect gift for baby showers, birthdays, graduations, anniversaries—even retirements!

You can also donate directly to the Children's Trust of Washington by mailing a check to: CTF WA c/o J. Olmstead, PO Box 40970, Olympia, WA 98501 *Your donation is tax-deductable.*



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



**Prevent Child Abuse**  
Washington

## PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



### Every Feeling Matters: Recognizing Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs) Brochure

[www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS\\_0041](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS_0041)

1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men experience a perinatal mental health issue. Finding help can be hard. There are many ways to support your emotional well-being. If your symptoms get in the way of your daily functioning, it is time to seek help. You can recover from PMADs with proper treatment. Every feeling matters! Text or call the Warm Line: 1-888-404-7763.



### Have a Plan: Shaken Baby Syndrome Brochure

[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS\\_0042](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS_0042)

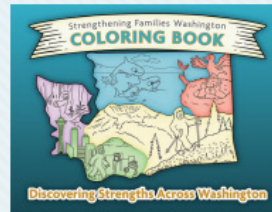
All babies cry. It's okay. Crying is one way your baby can tell you what they need. It's normal for babies to cry two to four hours a day. Even though crying is typical, it can still be stressful. Have a plan, share your plan and remind yourself that you are doing the best you can.



### Safe Sleep Card

[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS\\_0043](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS_0043)

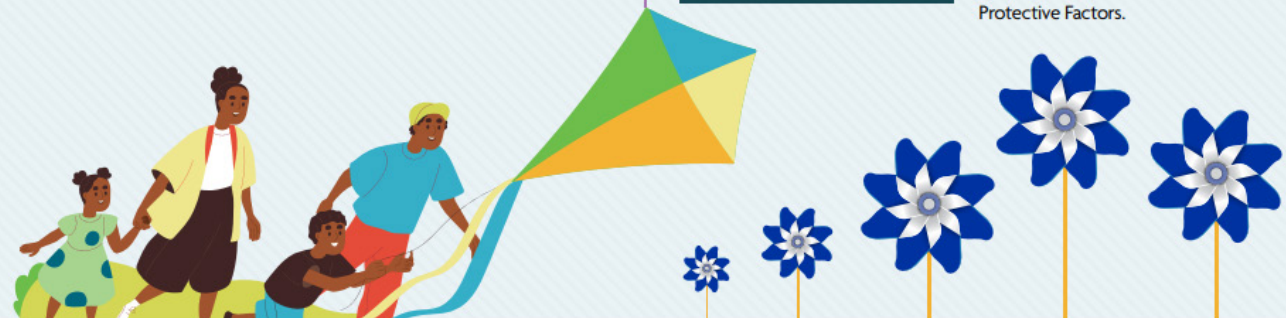
Research shows parents and caregivers can take specific actions to help reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant (less than 1 year old) death. Make sure everyone that takes care of your baby knows about safe sleep.



### Strengthening Families Washington Coloring Book

[www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS\\_0026](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library/FS_0026)

This coloring and activity book was designed for children and families to do together to help them become stronger and understand the five Protective Factors.



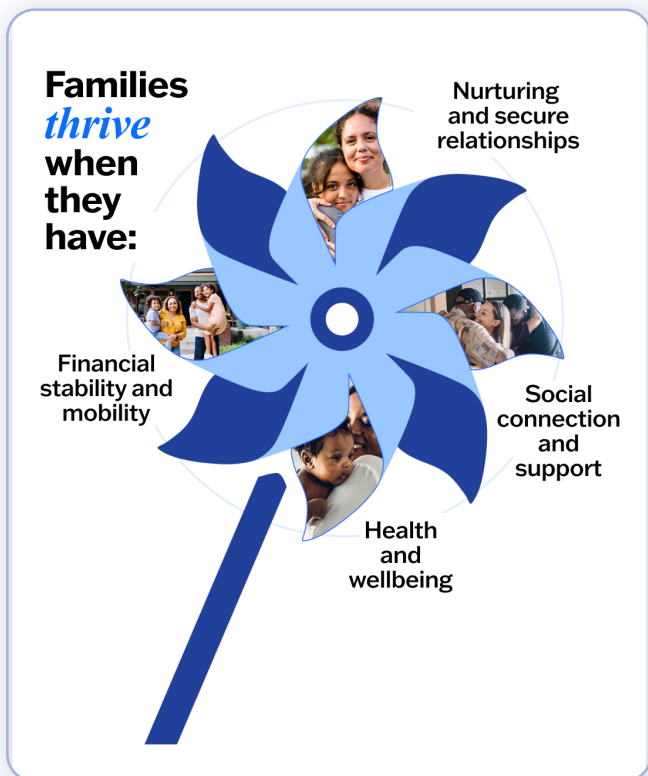
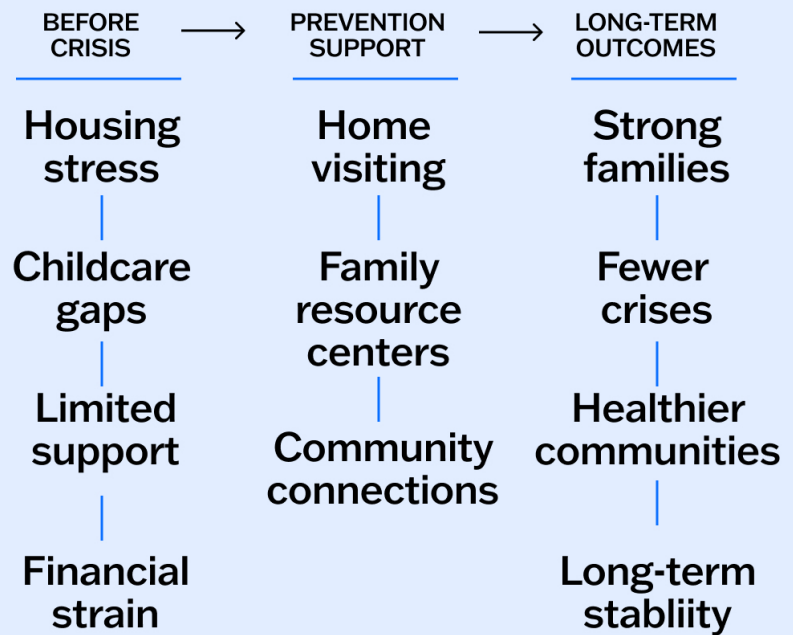
## Redefining Primary Prevention

Families are strong, and like any strong structure, they rely on solid foundations. Primary prevention works by supporting families early with resources such as home visiting, mental health supports, and family-friendly infrastructure and policies that reduce stress and build connections.

Through partnerships with over 80 family support organizations across the state, DCYF provides concrete goods to help address families' basic needs. These supports come in various forms, including material goods, such as groceries, diapers, and other supplies, and economic assistance. When families have access to these necessities, parental stress decreases and family security and child(ren) wellbeing increases. Find the list of our current programs on the following pages or at the QR code below.



## How Prevention Works



## Pinwheels of Possibility

Every child is born full of promise. When families have the support they need early, before stress becomes a crisis, children grow up safer, healthier, and full of hope for the future. Child abuse and neglect are preventable, and prevention begins when families and communities are empowered to define what support looks like and systems align to meet those needs.

### What Pinwheels of Possibility Represents

Pinwheels symbolize childhood joy and imagination, but they also represent something deeper. They remind us that when the conditions are right, children can thrive.

Prevention is about creating those conditions early by:

- Partnering with parents
- Strengthening families
- Investing in community-defined solutions

Pinwheels of Possibility reflects a strengths-based vision that centers families and communities as the foundation of child well-being.

# Current Funded Programs

## Home Visiting Programs

Atlantic Street Center  
Benton Franklin Health District  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima  
Chelan Douglas Health District  
Child Care Action Council  
ChildStrive- NFP  
ChildStrive- PAT  
Chinese Information Center  
Clark County Public Health  
Columbia Basin Health Association  
Community Youth Services  
Cowlitz Indian Tribe Child Care Development Program  
Denise Louie Education Center  
Eastern Washington University  
El Centro de la Raza  
First Step Family Support Center  
Friends of Youth  
Gather Church  
Grays Harbor County Public Health  
Horn Of Africa Services  
Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services  
Institute for Family Development

InterCultural Child & Family Services  
Jefferson County Public Health Dept  
Lummi Indian Business Council  
Lydia Place  
Mary Bridge Children's Foundation (MultiCare Health System)  
Okanogan County Child Development Association  
Open Arms Perinatal Services  
Save The Children  
Seattle- King County Public Health Dept  
Skagit County Public Health Dept  
Spokane Regional Health District  
St. James Family Center  
Suquamish Tribe  
Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept  
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services  
Tulalip Tribe  
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation  
West Africa Community Council  
Whatcom County Health Dept  
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic  
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Association



**National Home Visiting Week**

April 20-24, 2026



**Celebrating  
home visiting  
& the professionals  
who make this  
field special.**

## Diaper Banks

Babies of Homelessness  
Clark County Food Bank  
Dry Tikes and Wet Wipes  
First Five Fundamentals

KidVantage  
Partners Inland Northwest  
United Way of Skagit County  
WestSide Baby

## Family Resource Center - Concrete Supports

Amara  
FamilyWorks  
MultiCare Yakima Memorial Children's Village  
Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center

Open Doors for Multicultural Families  
Room One  
Washington Gorge Action Program  
YWCA Seattle, King, Snohomish

# Current Funded Programs

## SFL Partners

American Indian Community Center  
Catholic Charities- Eastern Washington  
Health and Justice Recovery Alliance  
Kitsap Mental Health Services

PAVE  
Port Angeles Food Bank  
Spokane Tribal Network  
YMCA- Olympic Peninsula

## Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Funded Programs

Brigid Collins  
East African Community Services  
First Step Family Support Center  
HIP of Spokane County  
Living Well Kent  
Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center

Open Doors for Multicultural Families  
Perinatal Support Washington  
Spokane Fatherhood Initiative  
South Sound Parent to Parent  
Yakima Memorial Hospital

## Perinatal Mental Health Community Capacity Building

Benton-Franklin Health District  
Chelan Douglas Health District  
First Step Family Support Center  
Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrant & Refugees  
Grant County Health Department

Joyce L Sobel Family Support Center  
Northwest Center  
Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane (RICS)  
Shades of Motherhood Network  
Whatcom Family & Community Network

## The Protective Factors

*Each of our funded programs utilizes and promotes one or more of the protective factors through their programs. Research has found that these five Protective Factors reduce stress and promote the well-being of ALL families. Everyone has stress, but when families increase Protective Factors, they build and draw on natural support networks within their families and communities.*



*Parental Resilience:  
I can overcome hard times.*



*Knowledge of Parenting and of Child/Youth Development: I know where to go to find out about parenting skills and my child's developmental growth.*



*Social Connections:  
I have people who know and support me*



*Concrete Supports: I know where to turn for help.*



*Social and Emotional Development: I know how to help my children talk about their feelings.*



Celebrating  
home visiting  
& the professionals  
who make this

# Being a Home Visitor means...

**Seeing the good in people** even when they can't see it in themselves.



Embracing  
lifelong learning.

**Being flexible and adaptable.**

No two days are the same and seldom does a day go as planned.

Believing that **change can happen.**

Acting as an **ambassador of hope.**



Being a **difference maker and change igniter.**

**Uplifting and empowering** everyone you serve.



**Leaving the world a better place,** one visit at a time.

Remaining **unshaken by challenge.**

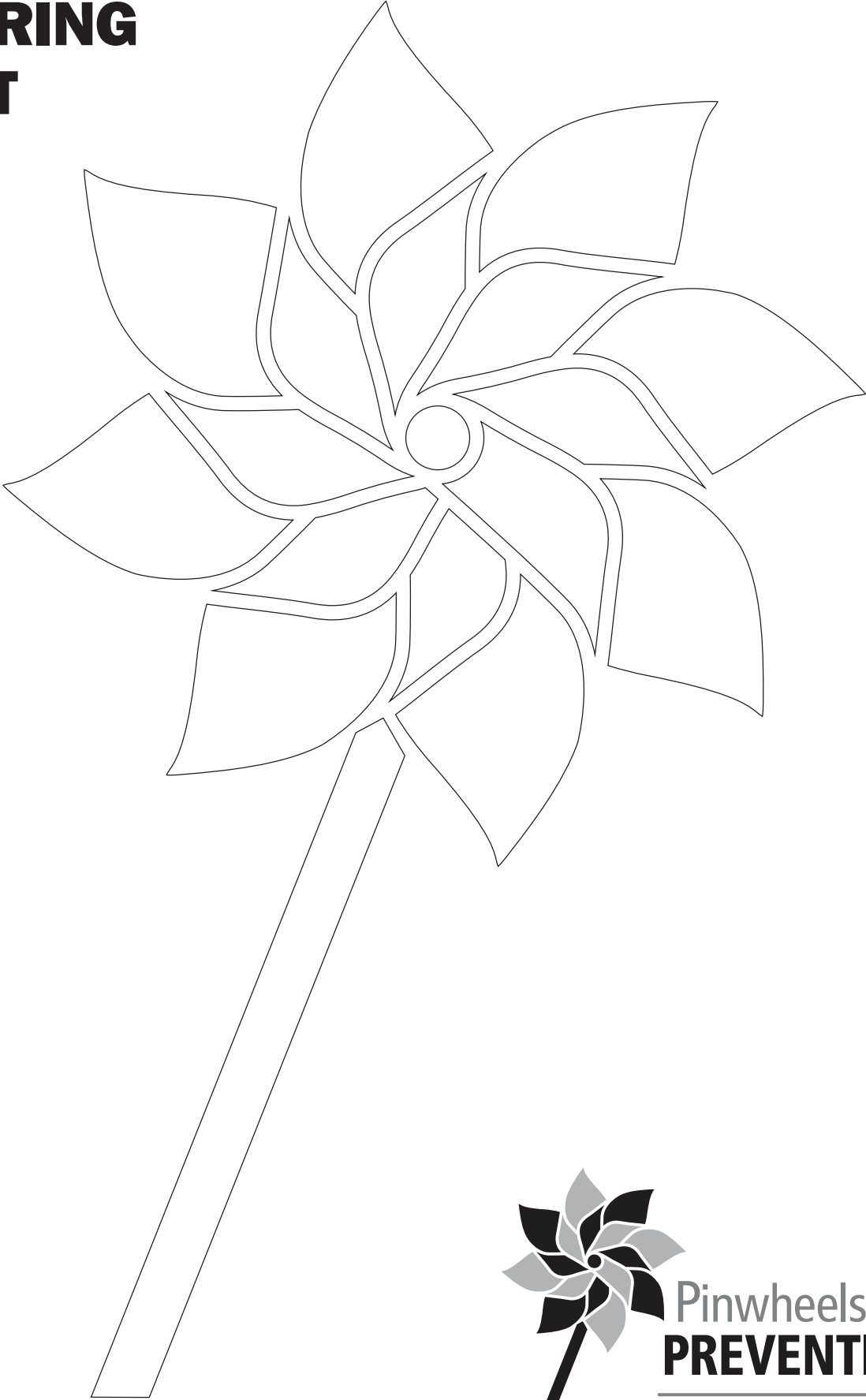


Understanding **small steps** lead to **big changes.**



**Institute**   
for the **Advancement of**  
**Family Support Professionals**

# PINWHEEL COLORING SHEET



Pinwheels for  
**PREVENTION**<sup>®</sup>

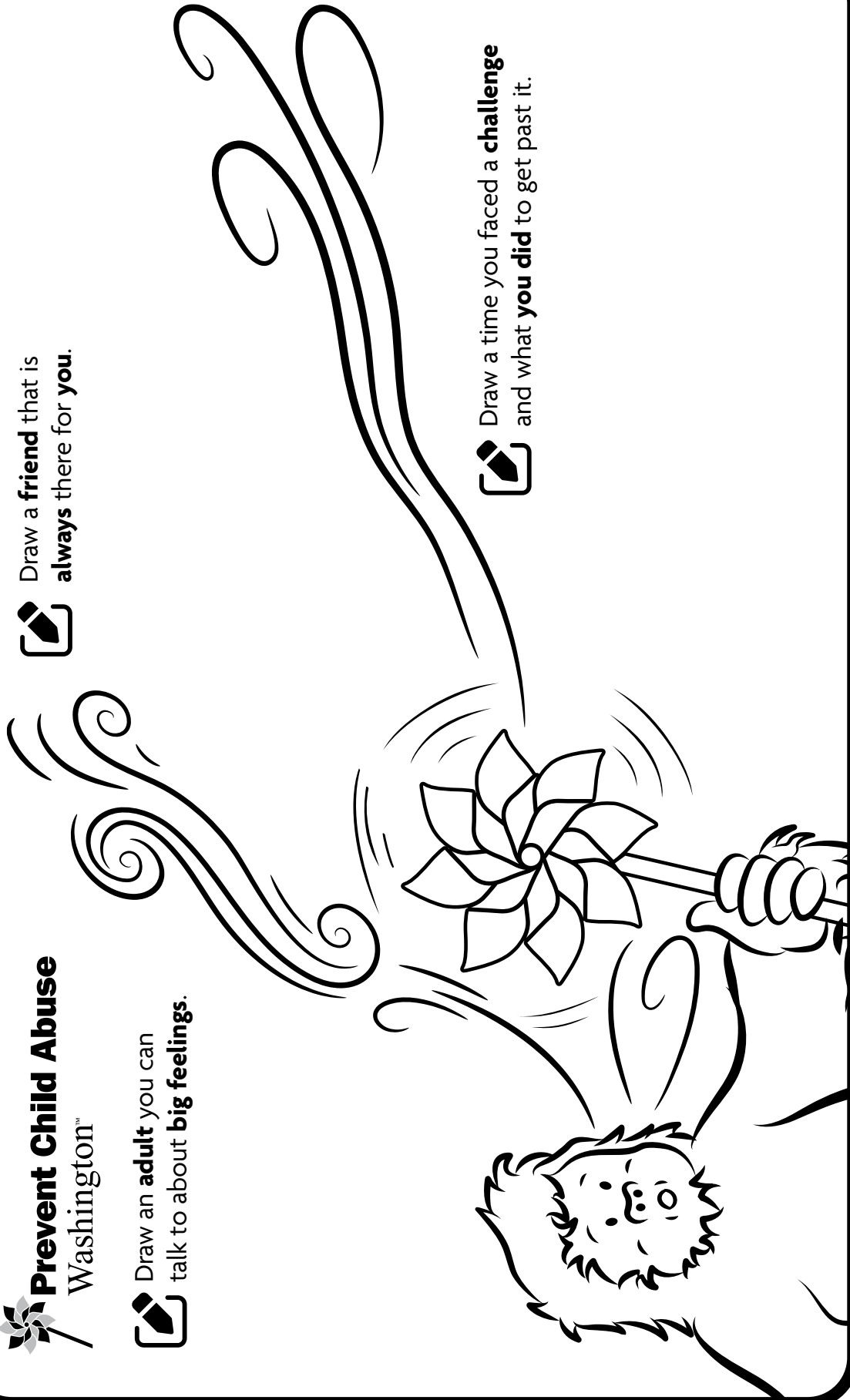
---



 Draw an **adult** you can talk to about **big feelings**.

 Draw a **friend** that is **always** there for **you**.

 Draw a time you faced a **challenge** and what **you did** to get past it.



 Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Download our Strengthening Families Washington Coloring book at [www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/sfw](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/sfw). For more information contact [strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov).

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email [communications@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dcyf.wa.gov).