### **APRIL 2023**



# **ACS CONNECTION**

Unsure of where to go when you need assistance? Let Army Community Service (ACS) guide you in the right direction.

### **OUR PROGRAMS**

Family Advocacy Program 270-412-5500

Financial Readiness Program 270-798-5518

Army Emergency Relief 270-798-5518

Exceptional Family Member Program 270-798-2727

Information and Referral Program 270-798-9322

Relocation Readiness Program 270-798-6313/956-2676

Volunteer Program 270-956-2934

Mobilization, Deployment, & Stability Support Operations 270-798-3849/412-3195/412-2007

Outreach Program 270-798-2062/412-6771

Soldier and Family Assistance Center 270-412-6004

Survivor Outreach Services 270-798-0272

### **ACS QUICK SCOOPS**

April is Autism Acceptance Month Cake Cutting - April 3- Main Exchange 11am-1pm

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Army Emergency Relief Campaign 1 March - 15 May 2023

Good Friday - April 7

Happy Easter! - April 9

EFMP Outreach - Main Exchange April 5, 12, 19, & 26

EFMP Family Fun Day - April 30

ACS Outreach - Commissary - April 4 BACH - April 10 & Main Exchange - April 14

### **Contact Us**



Bldg. 1501 William C. Lee Road (Inside Gate 1)

270-798-9322/956-2935



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# April is Autism Acceptance Month

#### By: Felicia Jefferson, Program Manager, Exceptional Family Member Program

April is Autism Acceptance Month, previously called Autism Awareness Month. This observance provides opportunities to celebrate and promote acceptance for autism spectrum disorder, (ASD) that occurs one in every 44 children. Autism is a complex condition that affects the individual's ability to interact, communicate, and progress. There are approximately 70 million cases of Autism worldwide. In the United States, Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder. Early detection is the key to providing behavioral and occupational therapy that can improve the quality of life for those on the Spectrum. Autism Acceptance Month is a reminder to be empathetic, warm, and welcoming to individuals with ASD.

#### **Facts**

- ASD is a brain disorder caused by genetic mutation and environmental triggers.
- Signs: repetitive behaviors, hyperactivity, sensitivity to light, touch, and sound.
- Various treatments are available, but there is no cure.
- ASD affects children of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.

This year Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program will kick off Autism Acceptance Month with the annual cake cutting at the main exchange 3 April from 1100 until 1300. Additionally, a variety of virtual activities will be offered throughout the month on the ACS EFMP private Facebook page.

#### Become an active participant!

- Find out what activities are happening in your community.
- Read autism books to your children.
- "Light it Up" Blue on 2 April for World Autism Awareness Day.
- Give a shout out for Autism Acceptance Month on social media.
- Plan your own activities.

#### **References** :

https://nationaltoday.com/autism-awareness-month/ https://autismsciencefoundation.org/quick-facts-about-autism/



#### By: PJ Rawlins, Program Manager (Acting), Family Advocacy Program

**Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM)** is observed annually in April to raise awareness about the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect. This month serves as a reminder that child abuse is a serious issue that affects millions of children worldwide, and it is our collective responsibility to take action to prevent it.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), child abuse and neglect are global public health problems that affect millions of children every year. Child abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Children who experience abuse and neglect are at a higher risk of developing metal health issues, substance abuse problems, and physical health problems later in life. Furthermore, development, affecting their cognitive, emotional, and social functioning.

Preventing child abuse and neglect requires a multi-faceted approach that involves families, communities, and policymakers. Some of the strategies that can be employed to prevent child abuse include:

- 1. Educating parents and caregivers: Providing parents and caregivers with education and resources on positive parenting practices can help prevent child abuse and neglect. This includes teaching parents how to manage stress, setting appropriate boundaries with children, and promoting healthy communication.
- 2. Strengthening child protection services: Ensuring that child protection services are accessible and responsive to reports of child abuse and neglect can help prevent future incident. This includes increasing the capacity of child protection agencies to investigate and intervene in cases of abuse.
- 3. Addressing social and economic factors: Addressing social and economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to healthcare and education can help prevent child abuse and neglect. Programs that provide support to families in need, such as housing assistance and job training, can help reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- 4. Increasing awareness: Raising awareness about the signs of child abuse and neglect and encouraging reporting can help prevent future incidents. This includes providing resources and information to parents, caregivers, and community members on how to recognize and report suspected abuse.

CAPM provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect and to take action to ensure the safety and well-being of children. By working together, we can create a safer and healthier world for all children.

#### **References:**

World Health Organization. (2019). Child maltreatment. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment

National Child Abuse Prevention Month. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH









### **PUNISHMENT vs. DISCPLINE**

#### By: PJ Rawlins, Program Manager (Acting), Family Advocacy Program



Punishment and Discipline are two concepts that are often used interchangeably when it comes to parenting, but they are fundamentally different. Punishment is a reactive approach that focuses on correcting inappropriate behavior through the use of negative consequences, while discipline is a proactive approach that focuses on teaching children appropriate behavior.

**Research has shown that discipline is a more effective approach to parenting** than punishment. According to a study published in the Journal of Child and Family Studies, children who are disciplined using positive reinforcement and other proactive strategies are less likely to engage in problematic behavior than those who are punished for their behavior. Positive reinforcement is an effective tool for discipline that involves rewarding children for good behavior. Rewards can include praise, stickers, or other small tokens of appreciation. This approach helps children develop positive habits and reinforces their self-esteem and sense of worth.

Other proactive strategies for discipline include setting clear expectations, providing consistent consequences, and using problem-solving techniques to address challenging behavior. These strategies can help children understand what is expected of them and develop problem-solving skills that they can use throughout their lives.

Punishment, on the other hand, focuses on negative consequences for inappropriate behavior. Punishment can take many forms, including verbal reprimands, time-outs, and physical discipline such as spanking. While punishment may be effective in the short term, it can have negative long-term consequences.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, physical discipline can lead to increased aggression, anxiety, and other negative outcomes in children. Verbal reprimands and other forms of punishment can also damage the parent-child relationship and lead to feelings of resentment and mistrust.

It is important for parents to understand that discipline and punishment are not the same thing. Discipline involves teaching children appropriate behavior, while punishment involves correcting inappropriate behavior through negative consequences. Proactive strategies such as positive reinforcement and clear expectations are more effective for discipline than reactive strategies such as punishment.

In conclusion, discipline is a more effective approach to parenting than punishment. Proactive strategies such as positive reinforcement, setting clear expectations, and problem-solving techniques are more effective for discipline than reactive strategies such as punishment. By using these proactive strategies, parents can help their children develop positive habits and problem-solving skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

#### **References:**

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2018). Effective Discipline to Raise Healthy Children. Retrieved from https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/communication-discipline/Pages/Effective-Discipline-to-Raise-Healthy-Children.aspx

Popkin, Michael H. (2014). Active Parenting: A Parent's Guide to Raising Happy and Successful Children (Active Parenting Publishers) 4th Edition.

DeGarmo, D. S., & Forgatch, M. S. (2007). Early development of delinquency within divorced families: Evaluating a randomized preventive intervention trial. Developmental Science, 10(2), 147-159.



## **Upcoming Training/Classes/Workshops**





Registration is required for all Training/Classes/Workshops

For additional information contact Army community Service 270-798-9322







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