



## Reflection on Child Abuse Prevention

As Child Abuse Prevention Month comes to a close, we celebrate the ongoing role of community members responsible for protecting children and strengthening families. As Native people, a sense of family and connection to people, community, and culture larger than ourselves matters.

Whether you are a social service director, tribal leader, teacher, auntie, or community member, we see you. We acknowledge your dedication to our children, our families, our communities, and our cultures. Thank you.

As we look ahead, NICWA will continue to work with you to prevent child abuse by addressing the systemic and structural barriers that lead to disproportionality and disparities for Native children and families.

Below you will find some resources that we've highlighted this month. Share your resources with us by using [#NativeChildrenThrive](#) on social media.

### Child Abuse Prevention Resource Roundup

Did you know that a connection to culture is an important protective factor for Native children? Research shows when systems with services have a focus on cultural connectedness, Native children thrive.

Resource: [Contemporary Attachment and Bonding Research: Implications for American Indian/Alaska Native Children and their Service Providers](#)

Research also shows that children in kinship care have profound and enduring benefits regarding their mental health, economic, and educational well-being.

Resource: [Understanding ICWA Placements Using Kinship Care Research](#)

There are things families can do to prepare and advocate for their children if they encounter the child welfare system. This [online resource](#) provides families encountering the child welfare system with advocacy tools.

For additional resources to reduce child maltreatment and build resilience in families, visit the [Children's Bureau Information Gateway](#).