Building a Blue Ribbon Tree with Preschool Aged Children

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Building a Blue Ribbon Tree is one way every community can support Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. Child Abuse is a sensitive topic to discuss with children, which is why this supplemental handout was created.

The ***Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee*** recommends that, while working with children on projects such as "Building a Blue Ribbon Tree", the focus remains on the positive aspects of prevention. It is our hope and goal for everyone who wants to, to be involved in preventing child abuse; and we certainly want to include children! By supporting all children through education about healthy families and how the community can help families, we will be preventing child abuse.

Ideas for talking to children about Building a Blue Ribbon Tree:

- Talk about symbols that they recognize and what they represent. For example, show them a picture of a McDonalds sign and ask them what they think of; show a picture of a heart and ask them what it means to them. You can think of more… this will be a fun game. Next show them a picture of a Blue Ribbon Tree. Tell the children that a Blue Ribbon Tree means that children are special and need adults to take care of them.

- Do art projects tied to Blue Ribbon Trees… draw pictures of Blue Ribbon Trees, glue blue shredded paper on a picture of a tree, make a sculpture of a tree with rolled up paper and tape. While working on these projects, talk about their families and how many people love each one of them including you, their teacher.

- It feels good to do nice things for others. Talk about nice things they can do for each other and how it makes them feel.

Talk about the idea of being nice to one another every day!

- Tell the children that their whole school is going to make a big Blue Ribbon Tree so that all the people driving by (or coming in) and all the moms and dads know that our school believes that children are special.

- Discuss helpful things your class can do for children and families.

  ⇒ Learn about community helpers. There are some good episodes of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood about this topic!

  ⇒ Help pick up trash on a playground or as you go for a walk. Talk about why this is important.

  ⇒ Donate food, clothes, and other items for families that need them.

  ⇒ Donate toys for children any time of the year. *It might be someone's birthday!*

  ⇒ Tell children how special and important they are.

  ⇒ Pray for the families in your community.

  ⇒ When someone does something nice for you or someone else, tell them, "Thank You!"

- Have a Blue Ribbon Tree party in April for all the people you know that help families. Invite people that might want to join you. Email a picture of your tree to sheriet@health.ok.gov so we can show it in the official Blue Ribbon Tree Slideshow.

Please find more information about Building a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids, by clicking ➟ HERE.

CLICK ON THESE LINKS TO FIND BLUE RIBBON TREE MATERIALS:

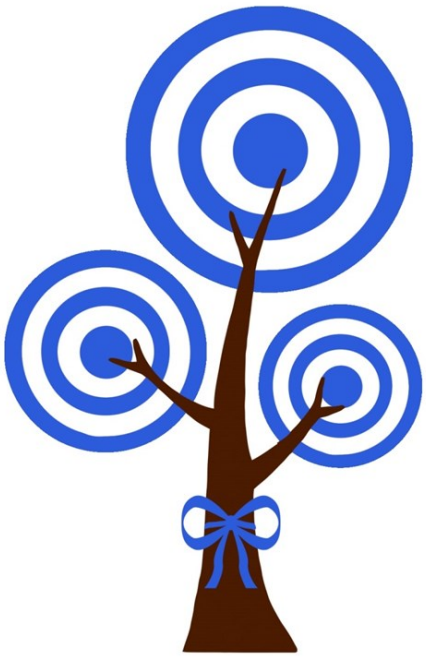
Blue Ribbon Tree Postcard

Blue Ribbon Tree Community Packet

Blue Ribbon Tree Coloring Sheet

*Photo Release

2015 Blue Ribbon Tree Slideshow



**Must have a signed photo release if any individuals are present in photos.*

The Blue Ribbon Tree supplemental handouts were artfully created by Robyn Sears MS, CCPS, CFLE.

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