

Helping School Aged Children Build a Blue Ribbon Tree



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 charities their parents may have supported in the past. They may have gone on a walk to support breast cancer with their parents; they may have helped in some way with Special Olympics, etc. They can do some kind of project (large or small) about these charities they have heard of or helped with.
- Discuss with the children that the Blue Ribbon Tree project is for supporting children and their families. If we call people's attention to children and families' needs, more people will want to help.
- It feels good to do nice things for others.

**Spend some time considering and discussing
each of these!**

- Some of the ways we can all help children and their families in our community is to:

- ⇒ Learn about organizations that help families with children and ask if they need help. Volunteer.
- ⇒ Clean up a playground, park or school.
- ⇒ Volunteer to read to children in the hospital.
- ⇒ Donate food, clothes, and other items for families that need them.
- ⇒ Donate toys for children at Christmas time or 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.
- ⇒ Look for kids doing kind things and tell them what you think!
- ⇒ Donate books. Read to a child.

- 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. Send 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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