



# Child Abuse Prevention Month

When we care *together*, families *thrive*



Child Abuse  
Prevention Month

# STRONG FAMILIES SAFER FUTURES

*When we care together,  
families thrive.*

For prevention tips visit [kern.org/kcnc](http://kern.org/kcnc)

To learn more about CAP month visit [kcdhs.org/cap](http://kcdhs.org/cap)

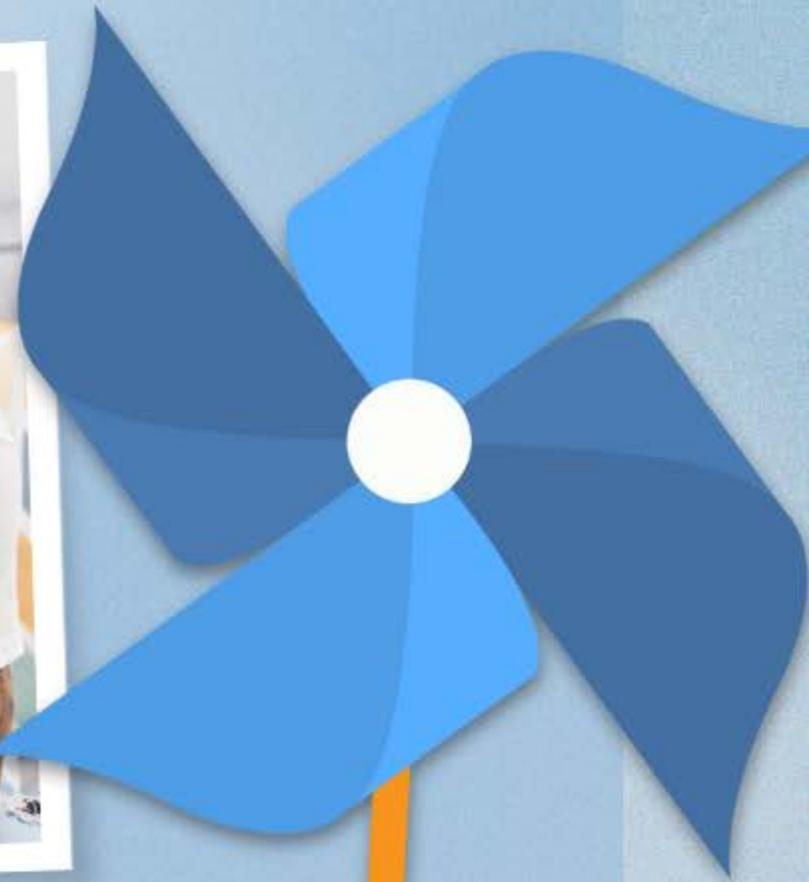
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# 5 Protective Factors:

1. **Parental Resilience:** Parents need to handle stress and tough times in a healthy way.
2. **Social Connections:** Strong relationships with family, friends, and the community are important.
3. **Support in Times of Need:** Families need help and resources when things get tough.
4. **Parenting and Child Development:** Understanding how to raise kids is important since they don't come with instructions!
5. **Social and Emotional Skills:** Teaching kids to understand and manage their feelings helps them grow strong.



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# What is ACEs?



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include things like abuse, neglect, and family problems such as divorce, mental illness, or addiction.



Over 1 in 4 people have had at least one ACE, and 1 in 8 have had four or more.



The more ACEs someone has, the higher the chance of serious long-term issues.



Reducing ACEs can improve health and help children grow into successful, healthy adults.

Learn more  
[acesaware.org](https://acesaware.org)



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# Tips & activities

## for Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

- **Volunteer:** Help at your child's school, read to kids at the library, or donate to foster youth programs.
- **Organize a play day:** Plan a fun day at the park for families in your area to meet and connect.
- **Involve your children:** Let them share ideas to help the community.
- **Think safety:** Focus on preventing accidents at home, in the car, and during sports.
- **Meet new neighbors:** Get to know other families at school or in your neighborhood.
- **Host a "Baby Supplies" drive:** Collect items like diapers, formula, and car seats for new parents.
- **Share Safe Sleep Baby info:** Teach families with newborns about safe sleep practices.



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## Kern County Network for Children

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### April 2026

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

*April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month,  
a time dedicated to recognizing the importance of families and communities working together to  
strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect.*

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Throughout April, we embrace the national theme “**Strong Families, Safer Futures,**” focusing on creating nurturing, supportive environments for children and families. **When we care together, families thrive,** and this collective commitment is at the heart of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Public service announcements promoting prevention efforts will air on local radio and television stations. Additionally, the Kern County Administrative Office will be illuminated in blue each night, and local media will be encouraged to highlight April activities in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** — at 9:00 a.m. Kern County Board of Supervisors **Proclamation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month** at 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA. [www.kerncounty.com/government/board-of-supervisors](http://www.kerncounty.com/government/board-of-supervisors)

**April, All Month Long** — “**Stronger Families Donation Drive**” in Honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month: Collecting child-safety items to support families served through local programs dedicated to preventing child abuse. <https://a.co/0dvmb38>

**April, All Month Long** — A **Kids Art Contest** with the theme “**My Big Dream**” will be held for children grades K-12<sup>th</sup>. Their artwork will be showcased at the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, at KCNC Social Media, and at the 2026 Strong Families, Safer Futures Resource Event” Resource Event.

**April, All Month Long** — The Heartbeat of Human Services Podcast “**Stronger Together: Conversation on Family Support Centers**” Presenting The Open Door Network, Greenfield FRC, and the voices of families with lived experiences. Kern County Department of Human Services [www.kcdhs.org](http://www.kcdhs.org)

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** — from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. “**Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)**” training held in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, hosted by KCSOS Foster Youth Education Program <https://events.humanitix.com/kern-county-superintendent-of-schools-community-schools-program-cope-general-admission>

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** — from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. “**Domestic Violence and Mandated Reporter Training**” led by Kern County Department of Human Services [www.kcdhs.org](http://www.kcdhs.org), hosted by KCNC [www.kcnc.org](http://www.kcnc.org). Register to attend in-person at [www.bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April9th](http://www.bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April9th) and to attend virtually at [www.bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April9th](http://www.bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April9th)

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** — “**Wear Blue Day**” in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Upload images of you or your team wearing blue to [www.bit.ly/wearblue-april10](http://www.bit.ly/wearblue-april10) – Social Media Campaign #WearBlueDay2026

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** — from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. “**Blue Pinwheel Display**” at Houchin Blood Bank, 5901 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA, check out CASA of Kern County [www.kerncasa.org](http://www.kerncasa.org)

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** — from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. professional development training for child care providers on “**Child Abuse Prevention and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) / Shaken Baby Syndrome**” (ENGLISH) led by the Kern County Network for Children, hosted by Community Connections for Child Care [www.kern.org/community-connection-child-care/](http://www.kern.org/community-connection-child-care/). Register online at [www.caregistry.org](http://www.caregistry.org)

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** — from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. “**2026 Strong Families, Safer Futures Resource Event**” in honor of April Child Abuse Prevention Month. This event honors the children who have been victims of child abuse and neglect and highlights the vital work of community organizations dedicated to prevention. Every child deserves to grow up safe, supported, and loved. Memorial flag raising and pinwheel display will be held during this event.

**Location: Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center, 801 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA**

**Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** — from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. “**Healthy Outcomes From Positive Experiences Training**” led by The HOPE National Resource Center, hosted by KCNC [www.kcnc.org](http://www.kcnc.org) & KCSOS [www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org). Register to attend in-person at [www.bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April20th](http://www.bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April20th) and to attend virtually at [www.bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April20th](http://www.bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April20th)

**Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** — from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. “**Blue Pinwheel Display**” at the 11th Annual California State University of Bakersfield Mental Health Awareness Event, at the CSUB Student Union patio & Runner Park, displayed by CASA of Kern County [www.kerncasa.org](http://www.kerncasa.org)

**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** — from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. professional development training for doula service providers on “**Child Abuse Prevention and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) / Shaken Baby Syndrome**” led by the Kern County Network for Children, hosted by In the Waiting Doula Services [www.inthewaitingdoulaservices.com](http://www.inthewaitingdoulaservices.com)

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** — from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. “**Blue Pinwheel Display**” at Arvin Spring Fest Event, at Grow Academy Arvin, 901 Nectarine Court, Arvin, CA, displayed by CASA of Kern County [www.kerncasa.org](http://www.kerncasa.org)

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** — “**Blue Sunday**” A day of prayer for abused children and those who rescue them. This National Day of Prayer reminds us to intercede for abused and neglected children. This day we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month at places of worship throughout Kern County. For more information go to [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org).

**Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** — from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. professional development training for child care providers on “**Child Abuse Prevention and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) / Shaken Baby Syndrome**” (SPANISH) led by the Kern County Network for Children, hosted by Community Connections for Child Care [www.kern.org/community-connection-child-care/](http://www.kern.org/community-connection-child-care/). Register online at [www.caregistry.org](http://www.caregistry.org)

*April is a special time to increase community awareness about preventing child abuse and neglect, but child safety needs to be 365 days a year, 24 hours a day concern for everyone. Volunteer, Reach Out, Speak UP. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, report it by calling (661) 631-6011 or 911. Kern County Network for Children serves as the County's Child Abuse Prevention Council. Please visit us at [www.kcnc.org](http://www.kcnc.org).*





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COUNTY OF KERN  
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention & The Child Abuse Prevention Center Present

The 6th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month

# KIDS ART CONTEST

This Year's Theme:

## MY BIG DREAM



To support the statewide Child Abuse Prevention Month theme, “**Strong Families, Safe Futures**”, this year’s art contest theme “**My BIG Dream**” allows endless opportunities for kids to express their aspirations and visions for the future.

Open to children and youth in the following grade categories:

K-2nd

3rd-6th

7th-8th

9th-12th

**Prizes** include art supplies and a framed certificate signed by California child abuse prevention leaders.

The winner’s art will be proudly displayed for the month of April on OCAP and The CAP Center websites!



OFFICE OF  
CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION  
California Department of Social Services

*grow strong families*

Submit Art & Release Form  
to [KidsDay@DSS.CA.GOV](mailto:KidsDay@DSS.CA.GOV)

**BY MARCH 20TH**



**Each Entry must include a Release Form** signed by the child’s parent or guardian. Please include complete contact information, so framed artwork can be mailed to the child. (See next page.)

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# STRONGER FAMILIES DONATION DRIVE

Through this Community Donation Campaign, we invite you to help protect children and strengthen families. Your contribution—no matter the size—directly supports child abuse prevention and safety efforts, and even a small gift can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Please ensure all donated items are new. We are not able to accept used clothing or gently used items at this time.



**ALL OF  
APRIL 2026**



**Scan to Order**

 <https://a.co/0dvmb38>

- Cleaning Supplies** ✓
- Play Pen for Safe Sleep** ✓
- Hygiene Kits for Children** ✓
- Baby Items and Essentials** ✓
- Toddler Beds for Safe Sleep** ✓
- Children's Essential Undergarments** ✓



Drop Off Location or Questions?

 1807 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Bakersfield, CA

 661-636-4920



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## The Heartbeat of Human Services Podcast

**“Stronger Together: Conversation on Family Support Centers”  
Presenting The Open Door Network, Greenfield FRC, and the voices of families with lived experiences. Kern County Department of Human Services  
[www.kcdhs.org](http://www.kcdhs.org)**



A conversation regarding topics related to KCDHS. The DHS Communications team leads important conversations with community members and DHS staff about various topics. Questions, comments, and suggestions can be emailed to [Social@Kerndhs.com](mailto:Social@Kerndhs.com).



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# Training Series

**April 2**

1:00pm - 3:30pm  
IN-PERSON

## **Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)**

Hosted by KCSOS Foster Youth Education Program

**April 9**

8:30am - 10:30am  
IN-PERSON VIRTUAL

## **Domestic Violence and Mandated Reporter**

Led by Kern County Department of Human Services

**April 14**

6:00pm - 8:00pm  
IN-PERSON

## **Child Abuse Prevention and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) / Shaken Baby Syndrome**

For childcare providers. Led by KCNC

Provided by

**KCNC**

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[KERN.ORG/KCNC](http://KERN.ORG/KCNC)

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# Training Series

**April 20**

8:30am - 10:30am

IN-PERSON VIRTUAL

**Healthy Outcomes from  
Positive Experiences**

Led by The HOPE National Resource Center

**April 23**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

IN-PERSON

**Child Abuse Prevention and  
Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) /  
Shaken Baby Syndrome**

For doula service providers. Led by KCNC

**April 28**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

IN-PERSON

**Child Abuse Prevention and  
Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) /  
Shaken Baby Syndrome *SPANISH***

For childcare providers. Led by KCNC

Provided by

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[KERN.ORG/KCNC](http://KERN.ORG/KCNC)

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# COST OF POVERTY EXPERIENCE



*for Child Abuse Prevention Month*

Join the KCSOS Foster Youth Education Program for an immersive experience that provides participants with a glimpse into the lives of youth & families living in poverty. This session is designed to build awareness and foster a deeper understanding of the systemic issues of poverty and its impact on youth, families and communities.

**\*Please bring a fully charged cell phone**

**Thursday, April 2nd, 2026  
1PM-3:30PM  
2000 K St. Bakersfield**

**Audience:**

Kern County foster youth service providers & educators. Please register no more than 5 staff members per organization due to limited space.

**Register [HERE](#)**

Questions? Email  
[FosterEdCoordinator@kern.org](mailto:FosterEdCoordinator@kern.org)





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# KCNC APRIL TRAINING

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & MANDATED REPORTING TRAINING

Please join the Kern County Network for Children as we welcome Yolanda Covian and Anjela Martinez, Child Protective Services (CPS) Staff Development Trainers from the Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS). The trainers will cover the different types of Domestic Violence (DV), how the cycle of DV impacts families especially children in the home, and a discussion of resources that are available for DV within Kern County. The training will also provide what is and what is not considered child abuse and/or neglect as well as how to appropriately report suspected child abuse to Child Protective Services.



Register for IN-PERSON  
[bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April9th](https://bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April9th)



Register for VIRTUAL  
[bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April9th](https://bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April9th)

**APRIL 9, 2026**

**8:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.**

**IN-PERSON LOCATION:**  
**LARRY E. REIDER EDUCATION CENTER**  
**ROOM 204/SECOND FLOOR**  
**2000 K STREET, BAKERSFIELD**

**ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**TRAINING IS FREE FOR ALL TO ATTEND!**



Questions: Yadira Vargas

661-636-4920



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# Wear Blue Day

## Friday, April 10th

*Wear Blue to help raise awareness on  
April National Child Abuse Prevention Month*

*Join Kern County  
Wear Blue Day  
Facebook event  
by uploading  
yourself or team  
wearing blue!  
Images will be  
shared on the  
KCNC Facebook*



**#WearBlueDay2026**

# Wear Blue Day

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH**

DHS employees and other agencies across the County will be wearing blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Join the cause by wearing blue on April 10.



## Child Abuse Prevention Month

[WWW.KCDHS.ORG/CAP](http://WWW.KCDHS.ORG/CAP)

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# Blue Pinwheel Displays

Displayed by



**April 10**  
9:00am-6:00pm

Houchin Bank  
5901 Truxtun Ave.  
Bakersfield

**April 22**  
10:00am-2:00pm

CSUB Mental Health  
Awareness Event  
CSUB Student Union patio  
& Runner Park  
Bakersfield

**April 24**  
3:00pm-6:00pm

Arvin Spring Fest Event  
Grow Academy Arvin  
901 Nectarine Court  
Arvin



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# Strong Families Safer Futures Resource Event

*When we care together,  
Families thrive!*

**Location:**

Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center  
801 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301

All families welcome—free event!

**Event Highlights:**

- Family Resource Centers
- Community Organizations
- Raffle Prizes & Giveaways
- Child Safety Kits
- Car Seat Safety Checks

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

**Sponsors:**



Join us for resources, support, and community connection. Because every child deserves to grow up safe, supported, and loved. This event is brought to you by the Kern County Network for Children Parent Advisory Board Members.

# KCNC



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# Familias Fuertes Futuros Seguros Evento de Recursos

*¡Cuando trabajamos juntos,  
las familias prosperan!*

## Ubicación:

Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center  
801 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301

¡Todas las familias son bienvenidas—  
evento gratuito!

## Detalles del Evento:

- Centros de Recursos para Familias
  - Organizaciones Comunitarias
  - Rifas, Premios y Regalos
  - Paquete de seguridad para niños
  - Revisiones de Seguridad de Asientos para Automóvil
- La financiación para este programa fue proporcionado por una subvención de la Oficina de Seguridad del Tráfico de California, a través de la Administración Nacional de Seguridad del Tráfico en las Carreteras.



16 de  
Abril  
9-11 AM

Únase a nosotros para obtener recursos, apoyo y una conexión con la comunidad. Porque cada niño merece crecer seguro, apoyado y amado. Este evento es organizado por los miembros del Consejo Asesor para Padres de Kern County Network for Children.

## Patrocinadores:





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# KCNC APRIL TRAINING

## SPREADING HOPE, HEALTHY OUTCOMES FROM POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

Please join the Kern County Network for Children as we welcome Brian Semsem, Trainer, leading the HOPE, Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences training. HOPE transforms our thinking about children and their development. We now know that optimal development grows from four types of experiences that we call the four building blocks of HOPE: safe nurturing Relationships, safe and equitable Environments in which to live, learn and play, Engagement with family and community to develop a sense of mattering, and opportunities for Emotional Growth. We will review the HOPE framework, the research behind it, and practical ways to implement the framework to strengthen families and support youth thriving.

**APRIL 20, 2026**

**8:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.**

 **IN-PERSON LOCATION:**

**BELL TOWER PLAZA  
 KERN ROOM/FIRST FLOOR  
 1200 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD**

 **ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:**

**VIA ZOOM**

**TRAINING IS FREE FOR ALL TO ATTEND!**



**Register for IN-PERSON**  
[bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April20th](https://bit.ly/KCNCIn-Person-April20th)



**Register for VIRTUAL**  
[bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April20th](https://bit.ly/KCNCTraining-April20th)



Questions: Yadira Vargas

 661-636-4920

# Community Connection for Child Care Professional Development Calendar

## April 2026

Register online at [www.caregistry.org](http://www.caregistry.org)

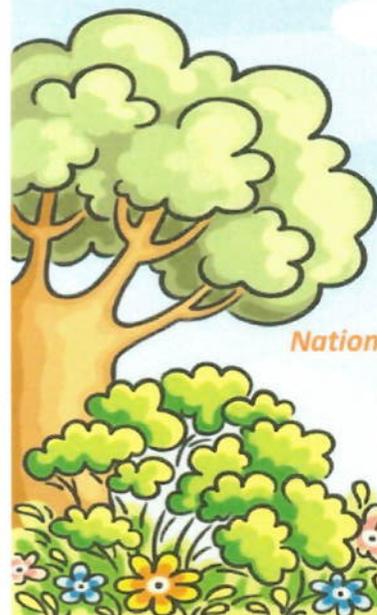
For training information call:

Para información de capacitación:

(661) 861-5200

(877) 861-5200

*National Autism Awareness Month & National Child Abuse Prevention Month*



| All dates are contingent upon participation /registrations. Please confirm dates beforehand.<br>Todas las fechas están sujetas a participación/inscripción. Por favor de confirmar fechas con anterioridad. |   |                        |  |  |
|---|---|------------------------|--|--|
| Date/Fecha<br>April 2026<br>Abril 2026  | Training<br>Entrenamiento   | Time<br>Hora           | Presenter<br>Presentado por  | Location<br>Ubicación  |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Trauma Informed Care:<br>Calm & Create -<br>Journaling for Stress<br>Management<br><i>ESPAÑOL</i> | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Perla Davis<br><i>Community Connection for<br/>Child Care</i>      | Bell Tower<br>Plaza<br>1200 Truxtun<br>Bakersfield CA<br>93301 |
| April 11 <sup>th</sup><br>Saturday  | Autism Is...Sensory<br>Hypersensitivity<br><i>ENGLISH</i>   | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Ymkje Wideman<br><i>Published Author and<br/>Autism Expert</i>     | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Abusive Head Trauma<br>(AHT)/Shaken Baby<br>Syndrome (SBS)<br><i>ENGLISH</i>                      | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Yadira Vargas<br><i>Kern County Network for<br/>Children</i>       | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Autism Is...Sensory<br>Hypersensitivity<br><i>ESPAÑOL</i>   | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Ymkje Wideman<br><i>Published Author and<br/>Autism Expert</i>     | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Screens Away, Time to Play<br><i>ESPAÑOL</i>  | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Kailan Carr<br><i>Published Children's<br/>Author and Advocate</i> | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | Autism Is...Toilet Training<br><i>ENGLISH</i>   | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Ymkje Wideman<br><i>Published Author and<br/>Autism Expert</i>     | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Abusive Head Trauma<br>(AHT)/Shaken Baby<br>Syndrome (SBS)<br><i>ENGLISH</i>                      | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Yadira Vargas<br><i>Kern County Network for<br/>Children</i>       | Virtual<br>Training  |
| April 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Autism Is...Toilet Training<br><i>ESPAÑOL</i>   | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  | Ymkje Wideman<br><i>Published Author and<br/>Autism Expert</i>     | Virtual<br>Training  |

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WHAT WILL YOUR  
CHURCH DO?

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**Blue Sunday**  
**A Day of Prayer for**  
**Abused Children**  
**and Those Who**  
**Advocate for Them**

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*Sunday, April 26, 2026*

Inviting all faith-based  
organizations to register  
at [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org)  
for free materials.