Pa Family
SUPPORT ALLIANCE
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

#ProtectPAKids
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2019 · LEARN MORE AT PA-FSA.ORG

Happy Pride, PA!

PA Family Support Alliance believes in the power of parenting proudly, every day, 365 days a year! June is an extra-special month nationwide as members of the LGBTQ+ community celebrate their identity with family, allies, and advocates. We tip our hat to all those across PA communities who create affirming spaces filled with unconditional support for all kids.

Over the last couple weekends, I have attended pride events, and several times my eyes welled with tears as neighbors stood hand in hand raising rainbow flags and promoting unity through song, spoken word, art, and expressions of love. People of all ages and backgrounds build villages to nurture youth whose home is not a haven. Every young person deserves to thrive to their full potential with love and respect. Now more than ever — community and advocacy are vital.

With increasing access to support, LGBTQ+ youth share their identity with others at younger ages. While resources continue to expand within the LGBTQ+ community, parents and caregivers are often unsure where to learn the best ways to encourage their child's coming out process, find the right assistance for their kids, or build their own parent network.

We want to help change that. PFSA is excited to work with local ally organizations like the LBGT Center of Central PA to promote inclusion within family, community, professional-provider, education, and prevention environments. Relying on community collaborations and discussions, we will create new parent and caregiver publications, continuing our mission to support all parents and kids across the commonwealth. Visit our website often and stay tuned for publication release dates in upcoming newsletters!

A very special thank you to the team at the LBGT Center of Central PA for your contributions on upcoming projects and for the inclusion, safety, and support you provide to the Dauphin County community.

Kayla Kressler | Director of Prevention Programs

Pa Child Abuse
PREVENTION
SYMPOSIUM

9.18.19

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

PFSA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PA-FSA.ORG

3 Questions To Ask YOUR Child's Summer Camp

Keeping our children safe from abuse must be the highest priority throughout the year. Here are some questions you can ask your child's summer camp staff to find out what they are doing to #ProtectPAKids. We've also included tips you can pass on to the camp to improve child protection policies.

► **Do all the staff and volunteers working with children have their child abuse and criminal background clearances?** In many instances, criminal background clearances are required by law for those working or volunteering with children.

Tip for camps: Know the laws and consider going above the minimum requirement in the law to ensure all those who have contact with kids have no history of abusing children.

► **Do you have a child protection policy?** Summer camps should have child protection policies that use known prevention strategies. For example, limit interactions between one adult with one child — ensuring that two adults are always present with children increases accountability and lessens the opportunity for abuse.

Tip for camps: PFSA has a sample child protection policy and is open to reviewing such policies to ensure they use known prevention strategies.

► **What training do the staff and volunteers receive regarding child abuse identification and reporting?** Summer camps should provide comprehensive training for staff and volunteers on child abuse identification and reporting, so they know what to do when they suspect child abuse.

Tip for camps: PFSA provides free training on how to recognize and report child abuse, featuring relevant scenarios. Schedule a free onsite training today at pa-fsa.org.

Implementing child protection policies can be costly, but it's necessary. We must always focus on zero tolerance for the maltreatment of children, which requires a high level of honesty and transparency throughout an organization.