



Against Child Abuse

防止虐待兒童會

May Newsletter

2015

Politicians from across the political spectrum have come together in the UK for the first time to acknowledge the importance of the 1001 critical days from when a baby is conceived until age two. The 1001 Critical Days Manifesto was officially launched at each political party conference in October 2013. Their goal is for every baby to receive sensitive and responsive care from its main caregivers and to support parents to feel confident to raise their children in a loving and supportive environment.

Babies learn from parents every second, both good and bad things. A baby's social and emotional development is strongly affected by the quality of their attachment to its caregivers. International studies show evidence that the brain achieves its optimum development and nurturing during the first few years of growth and enables babies to achieve the best start in Life. The earliest experiences shape a baby's brain development and have a lifelong impact on mental and emotional health. Having a loving, sensitive and responsive relationship with an adult caregiver teaches the baby to trust. But the first few years of parenthood can be tough. Some parents find it hard to provide the care and attention their baby needs. They need support and advice.



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The Against Child Abuse has always been advocating for the government to invest in children and prevent child abuse at an early stage. We launched the Healthy Start Volunteer Home Visitation Project since 1997 to support parents-to-be and new parents. Volunteer home visitation to families with newborn babies has proved to be an effective strategy in preventing child abuse. We have extended this model to serve single/young parents and deprived families with young children and new arrival families with children aged 0-5. It is disappointing that the government has yet to see its importance and is still reluctant to invest in children and put such a prevention strategy into the mainstream services.

Another service which we provide to support parents and children is the Parent-Child Support Line, which operates until 9:00pm on weekdays. This Parent-Child Support Line not only serves as a hotline to report suspected child abuse cases; it is also a channel for parents and children to seek help when they have conflicts, misunderstandings and communication problems. We provide telephone counseling and, if there are further needs, we arrange face-to-face interviews, counseling or outreach to the home to make a thorough assessment and recommend follow-up services. For complex or serious child abuse cases, we employ a multidisciplinary approach to help the family. Very often, our social workers are challenged by angry parents and uncooperative professionals when we try to hear the child's voice and make sure the child is safe. At multidisciplinary child abuse case conferences, we still encounter professionals claiming that frequent hitting is not child abuse. Child protection by its nature is a difficult and demanding job. My deep appreciation to our frontline social workers, who do not shrink from their responsibility to protect children and to end violence against children.

Dr Jessica Ho
Director

Summary of Major Activities for January to March 2015

Month	Project/Title	Activity
January to February	Kids' Dream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation Camp from 31 January to 1 February
January to March	Child Protection Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Education Workshop on 13, 22, 27, 29 January and 5 February • Self-exploration Journey – Expressive Arts Workshop on 18 January • Certificate Course on Child Protection on 23 and 30 January • Parent-child Expressive Arts Workshop on 23 and 30 January, 6, 13 February, 6, 13, 20 and 27 March • Positive Communication with Opposite Gender and Self Protection Children Workshop on 28 January • Positive Parenting Talk on 2 February • Child Protection Talk on 11 February • How to Enhance Children's Logical Thinking and Creativity Parent Talk on 14 March • Happy Family Group on 17, 24 and 31 March • Self-protection Student Talk on 18 March
	Daylily Project for Young / Single Mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on 17 January • Happy New Year Activity on 15 February • Volunteer Training on 13 March • Happy Together @ Ocean Park on 14 March
	Bless My Home Forever Volunteer Home Visitation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on 17 January • Volunteer Training on 13 March • Happy Together @ Ocean Park on 14 March
	Healthy Start Home Visiting Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents Talk cum BB Birthday Party on 31 January • Volunteer Team Building Training on 6 March
	Child Abuse Treatment Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Parenting Talk on 16 January and 6 March • Stress Management Group for Parents on 20, 22, 27, 29 January, 3, 5, 10 and 12 February • Family Day in Ocean Park on 14 March
	Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social and Emotional Learning Group on 9, 16, 23, 30 January, 6 and 13 February • Handicraft DIY for Chinese New Year on 26 January • Service Users' Gathering 2014 on 1 February • Children's Resilience Building Group on 25, 27 February, 6, 13, 20 and 27 March • Family Outing at Tin Shui Wai Farm on 1 March • Love and Support Children Bus Tour on 22 March
February to March	Child Protection Home Visitation Project for New Arrivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Safety Volunteer Training cum Volunteer Sharing on 7 February • Volunteer Team Building cum Volunteer Sharing on 28 February • Volunteer Training on 13 March
March	Tuen Mun Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Corner Volunteer Group Spring Gathering on 5 March • Volunteer Training on 12, 19 and 26 March • Watching Cavalia Matinee Show on 28 March
	Children's Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Children Councilor Recruitment

Forthcoming Events for April to June 2015

Month	Project/Title	Activity
April	Kids' Dream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Rights Forum Participation on 1 April
April to May	Children's Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Councilor Interview on 25 April Children Councilor Training on 9 May
	Child Protection Home Visitation Project for New Arrivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press Conference on 27 April Volunteer Sharing cum Project Closing Ceremony on 16 May
April to June	Child Protection Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance Children's Logical Thinking and Creativity Easter Course from 8 to 10 April Children Development Drama Classes on 11, 18, 25 April, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 May Suspected Child Abuse Case Identification and Handling Workshop on 13 and 20 April Self Healing Expressive Arts Parent Workshop on 14, 21, 28 April and 4 May Happy Family Workshop on 14 and 21 April Lunch Sharing on 15 April Risk Assessment and Handling of Child Abuse Certificate Course on 23 April Expressive Arts Children Group on 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 May Mindful Parenting Program on 7, 14, 21, 28 May, 3, 11, 18 and 25 June
	Daylily Project for Young / Single Mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Training on 11, 18 April, 17 May and 25 June Inspiration Lake Tour on 17 May The Peak Tour on 27 June
	Child Abuse Treatment Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Therapeutic Group on 17, 24 April, 8, 15, 22 and 29 May Stress Management Group for Parents on 21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19, 26 May, 2 and 9 June Positive Parenting Talk on 9 May
	Bless My Home Forever Volunteer Home Visitation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Training on 18 April Fun Trip @ Inspiration Lake on 17 May Exploration Trip @ Central and Western District on 27 June
	Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday Party on 11 April Parent Education Group on 14 April, 12 May and 16 June Children's Resilience Building Group on 17, 24 April and 15 May Spank Out Day Bus Tour on 26 April Mother's Day Gathering on 9 May Seasonal Family Outing on 24 May Chuk Yuen Centre Open Day on 28 June
May to June	Healthy Start Home Visiting Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Training on 22, 29 May, 5 and 12 June Father's Day Celebration on 21 June
June	Tuen Mun Centre Family Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Group Members Meeting on 11 June

Child Protection Institute (CPI)

Self-exploration Journey - Expressive Arts Workshop

Self-Exploration Journey - Expressive Arts Workshop was held on 18 January at Changing Young Lives Foundation for the volunteers and children of the Foundation. Through various imaginative and creative activities, participants built up their relationship and enhanced their self-awareness. They enjoyed the workshop a lot. As part of the workshop, they were required to produce an exhibition of their journey together and shared what they learned in their service. Through working on this production, they developed a mutual understanding and shared mutual support.



Although there were 33 participants with significant age difference, the workshop was very smooth and successful. This success owed special thanks to the help of our volunteers, Dora and Natalie.

Vanice Chan
Funding and Promotion Officer

Child Protection Certificate Course

We delivered a 4-session Child Protection Certificate Course at the United Christian Hospital on 23 and 30 January. Thirty nurses from the department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Pediatrics and Adolescent Clinic, Social Community Obstetrics and Gynecology participated.

The course used live scenarios to demonstrate procedures, measures and difficulties in handling suspected child abuse cases. Interactive activities were used throughout the course. The participating nurses showed concern for the growth, development and safety of children. They also had a better understanding of the importance of multi-disciplinary collaboration. In future, we shall organise this Child Protection Certificate Course for more medical professionals in other hospitals.



Lau Yin Ling
Development and Training Manager

Parent-child Expressive Arts Workshop

From January to March, we held an 8-session parent-child workshop at Changing Young Lives Foundation for parents and children to learn how to use creative arts to enhance their relationship. The workshop comprised different activities, during which the participating children treasured the time they spent with their parents and the parents appreciated the children's creativity.

One participating child told the following story in one of the sessions: "I have a robot and he helps me to do many things. Today I played toys with him, but he did not play with me. I was very upset." With prompts and encouragement from the facilitator, the child opened up himself more by expressing that he felt sad when his mother did not play with him. From this case, we may see that feelings locked inside us can be expressed through Expressive Arts.

Vanice Chan
Funding and Promotion Officer



Child Abuse Treatment Corner

Sponsored by Fu Tak lam Foundation Limited

Between January and March, the Child Abuse Treatment Corner organised Stress Management Group for Parents, Positive Parenting Talk and Family Day in Ocean Park.

Stress Management Group for Parents

In order to help the parents understand the significance of stress management in parenting, an 8-session stress management group was organised from 20 January to 12 February for nine parents. They shared their parenting experience with each other and learned to analyze how their irrational beliefs affected parenting. A mother felt that her emotions became more positive and the relationship with her family improved after joining the group.



Positive Parenting Talk

A positive parenting talk was conducted on 6 March to introduce the positive parent-child communication attitudes and skills for parents so as to enhance their positive parenting skills. The participants found the talk very useful.

Family Day in Ocean Park

We organised "Family Day in Ocean Park" on 14 March. It aimed at enhancing parent-child relationship by providing parents an enjoyable time together with their children. Altogether, 91 parents and children joined the activity and most of them were satisfied with all the arrangements. They agreed that the goal of the activity was achieved and they would like to join similar activities again.

Manki Wong
Project Social Worker



Parent-child Support Line

Collaborative partner: Save the Children Hong Kong

ACA Parent-child Support Line provides parents, children, young people, professionals and public with a channel to seek help and support.

The Line aims at promoting positive messages to children, parents and the public about the need to seek help and the importance of child protection. Starting from February, we have been organising a series of promotion activities by radio broadcasting and bus advertising for the Line. We hope that the parents and children in need of support may use it to contact us without hesitation.

In April, we started recruiting and training the ambassadors' volunteers to promote the use of positive parenting skills.

Parent-child Support Line: **2755 1122**

Service: 9:00a.m-9:00p.m. (Monday to Friday)
9:00a.m-1:00p.m. (Saturday)

Yvonne Wai
Project Officer



Daylily Project for Young / Single Mothers

Sponsored by the Community Chest of Hong Kong

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

In order to appreciate the volunteers' efforts in the last year, a volunteer recognition ceremony was held on 17 January. Altogether, 31 volunteers participated. They received the certificate of merit from our agency and they shared the valuable memories with 34 family members. Also a short video showing gratitude for the volunteers from nine parents was played on the ceremony.



Happy New Year Activity

We organised a New Year celebration on 15 February for four parents, five children and 16 volunteers. The volunteers taught the family members to make chocolate "tangyuan" and red pocket lanterns. The parents enjoyed the "tangyuan" made by their children a lot. The participating children were well pleased with the "tangyuan" and the lanterns they made.



Jack Tang
Social Worker



Bless My Home Forever Volunteer Home Visitation Project

Sponsored by the Community Chest of Hong Kong

A visit to the Hong Kong Single Parents Association was arranged on 13 March for our project volunteers to understand more about the needs and characteristics of single-parent families. Through the sharing of Ms Yu, the Director of the Association, our project volunteers learned the interaction skills needed in working with single parent families and acknowledged the related community resources. All participants treasured this experience.

The event "Happy Together @ Ocean Park", which was a visit to the Ocean Park, was organised on 14 March for families facing difficulties in finance, difficulties in parenting and difficulties arising from children's studies. These families seldom have a chance to go to the Ocean Park. The participants felt relaxed, had fun and enjoyed the companion with each other that day. In addition, the connection between the parents was built and their social network was enhanced.

Kennis Cheng
Social Worker



Child Protection Home Visitation Project for New Arrivals

Sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Volunteer Team Building cum Volunteer Sharing

A volunteer team building session was organised on 28 February. It aimed at building up team work among volunteers. After the session, a presentation was held in recognition of volunteers' contribution and effort made for the project families. Volunteers were touched when they received certificate of appreciation from the families. In the evening, volunteers and project families had a barbeque, which they enjoyed very much.



Vicky Chan
Project Social Worker



The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant – Healthy Start Home Visiting Project

Sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Parent Talk cum BB Birthday Party

A parent talk and baby birthday party was organised at the Exhibition Gallery of Tuen Mun Town Hall on 31 January. Altogether, 99 parents and children from 32 families joined the function. When the parents were attending the talk, 26 of our experienced volunteers looked after their babies and taught the children aged 4 or above to work at handicraft. We were honoured to have Ms Winsy Wong, the Senior Speech Therapist of Quality Therapy and Education Centre, to share the knowledge and skills in facilitating babies' speech development in daily lives for the parents. After the talk, we held a birthday party for the babies born in July to December. The parents and children enjoyed the party very much.

Donna Wong
Project Social Worker



Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner

Family Outing at Tin Shui Wai Farm

A total of 63 participants from about 20 families visited the Tin Shui Wai Greenfield Garden on 1 March. It was a sunny day and the families had much fun in the organic farm and enjoyed the barbecue as well as the recreational facilities. It is a memorable activity for the families.

“Let’s Relax” Corner

On 26 January, the Family Corner volunteers assisted in launching a DIY session to make Chinese New Year decorations for parents. The participants had lots of fun and made many friends in the activity.

Children’s Social and Emotional Learning Group

A 6-session “Great Master of Ceremony” social and emotional learning group was conducted for eight children in January and February. The children not only learned the skills MCs required, but also picked up self-confidence and communication skills. We hope that they can be the masters of ceremony for our programmes in the future.

Love and Support Children Bus Tour

On 22 March, we organised a bus tour in Wong Tai Sin District to promote the Family Corner services and 40 parent-child volunteers visited the Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate, Tsz Ching Estate and Choi Hung Estate with us.

Peter Ng
Social Worker



Children's Council 2015

Sponsored by the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme

Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights and Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF have jointly formed a Coordinating Committee since 2000 to raise public awareness on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to promote children's rights in Hong Kong with the sponsorship of the HKSAR Government.

The Children's Council project was successful in the past 10 years. Children's views were collected and systematically presented by the Child Councilors. Also 31 motions concerning children were discussed. Subject areas of these motions included education policies, child abuse, school bullying, children in poverty, childhood overweight, children's right to participation, unhealthy information to children, children and youth at risk, sex education among children, children left unattended, newly arrived Mainland children's learning environment, children's mental health, South Asian ethnic children's learning of Chinese, cyber-bullying, parents' divorce, children's right to political participation, and integrated education. During presentation, child councilors interacted with the representatives of the government officials, the Legislative Councilors as well as other guests in the Q & A sessions. We have received highly encouraging feedback on the child councilors' performance from Government officials, Legislative Councilors, schools, NGOs, media, individual guests in the local community as well as overseas, and the most important of all, the children themselves.

With the pledged support from the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, we have launched the Children's Council 2015 project. From May to September, a series of training on children's rights will be provided to the new Child Councilors.



Lee Yu Po
Service Manager
(Preventive Service)

兒童議會 Children's Council 2015

宗旨 Objectives:
「兒童議會」是「兒童權利教育資助計劃」下的一項計劃，旨在為全港青少年提供有關兒童權利及國際公約的培訓，並藉此提高青少年對兒童權利及國際公約的認識，鼓勵青少年參與社會事務，為改善兒童福利及權益發聲。

計劃期 Project Period:
4/2015 - 10/2015

參加資格 Eligibility:
12至18歲青少年 (包括2015年9月1日或之前滿18歲者)

國際 Enquiries: 2324 9782
費用全免 Free of charge

截止日期 Deadline: 15/4/2015 (星期三/Wed)

詳情請查詢 For details, please visit: www.childrenscouncil.org.hk