

April, 2007

Chicago Dept of Public Health



OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Violence Prevention E-Brief

Mayor Daley Proclaims Chicago Safe Start Week



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of research indicating that young children who are exposed to violence in their homes or communities are at a greater risk of enduring long lasting psychological trauma; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census, there were over 200,000 children under the age of five living in Chicago, and in 2006, there were over 200,000 calls for police response to domestic violence in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 25% of Chicago's children have witnessed a shooting and 30% have witnessed a stabbing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention has provided leadership since 2000 in strengthening the city's response to children exposed to violence through the Chicago Safe Start initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Violence Prevention has designated the week of April 22, 2007, to be Chicago Safe Start Week, and asks all residents to be attentive to what children, see, hear and learn, to remove children from violent situations and seek help when children are exposed to violence:

NOW, THEREFORE, I RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim the week of April 22, 2007, to be CHICAGO SAFE START WEEK, and urge all Chicagoans to make an active commitment to bring our children back into focus and ensure that all children have a safe start.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2007.

A handwritten signature of Richard M. Daley in blue ink, with the word 'Mayor' printed below it.

Last week

- We suffered the loss of so many of our country's 'hopes for the future' in the tragic events at Virginia Tech.
- We may not have given much thought about children's mental health.
- Our city celebrated being designated the U.S. contending city for the 2016 Olympics.
- There were over 50,000 babies born throughout the U.S.

This week

- We can pay homage and respect to the young people we lost, their families and friends, with an intentional act of kindness, compassion, patience and understanding for those around us.
- We can make healthy choices about exercise and nutrition.
- We can renew our commitment to work for better children's mental health screening, services, funding and accessibility.
- We can work to insure that the 50,000 new babies now among us will have a safe start in life beginning with being a 'safe person' in the life of some child.
- We can remember that young people need **alert** adults looking out for them, staying close to them, being there for them, no matter what.

THIS WEEK IS CHICAGO SAFE START WEEK!