

## **An Open Letter to New York Organizations About Corporal Punishment**

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's (APSAC) mission is to improve society's response to the abuse and neglect of children by promoting effective interdisciplinary approaches to identification, intervention, treatment and prevention of child maltreatment. It is a national organization composed of members and state chapters with dedicated professionals working in the area of child protection.

The New York State Chapter of APSAC has embarked on a very important initiative in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics District 2 comprising AAP Chapters 1, 2 and 3, The New York Foundling, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Prevent Child Abuse New York. The goal is to end corporal punishment of children in New York State. **We are writing with the hope that you will join us in this effort.**

[This article](#) explains in greater detail the research which forms the foundation for the opinion that corporal punishment has negative effects on children both physically and emotionally and is not effective as a means of discipline.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently published a policy statement: "Effective Discipline to Raise Healthy Children." This statement states clearly that parents and other caregivers should not use corporal punishment to discipline children.

The Best Practices Committee of the New York Chapter of APSAC (APSAC-NY), The American Academy of Pediatrics District 2, The New York Foundling, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and Prevent Child Abuse New York hope that your agency will support this very important mission by allowing us to list your organization as one that endorses ending corporal punishment in NY through education and advocacy. Enclosed are:

- 1) APSAC-NY Statement on Corporal Punishment an explanation of the project's goal and endorsement of APSAC's position paper on corporal punishment
- 2) The APSAC position paper
- 3) The AAP's policy statement: Effective Discipline to Raise Healthy Children
- 4) Information on No Hit Zones: <https://endhitting.org/no-hit-zone/>

**We hope that your agency will join us in this critical project.** We are happy to provide additional information and a bibliography of literature on corporal punishment upon request and also to answer any questions you may have. Please contact us using the email link below.

Bill Baccaglini, President and CEO, New York Foundling

Ann Lenane, M.D., F.A.A.P., Chair, APSAC-NY Best Practices Committee

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Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., Executive Director, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Warren M. Seigel, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.P., Chair, AAP District 2

Timothy Hathaway, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse New York

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To indicate your organization's endorsement please complete the section below, check the "yes" box and forward to: [FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org](mailto:FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org)

Yes, my organization endorses the mission of ending corporal punishment in New York State.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_