

To: Child Welfare Partners  
From: Susan I. Hamilton, MSW, JD  
Date: July 10, 2008  
Re: New DCF Prevention/Education Website For Families

As you all know, educating and informing parents and caregivers is a smart investment in prevention. For this reason, I am excited that the Department, through the hard work of staff in the Bureau of Prevention and External Affairs, is launching a new Website -- [www.CTParenting.com](http://www.CTParenting.com) -- to give families one-stop access to comprehensive and reliable information on a range of issues that affect the lives of children and families.

[CTParenting.com](http://www.CTParenting.com) offers information relevant for families with children of all ages and developmental stages, including reliable information on health, safety, child development, education, family fun, and meeting families' basic needs (e.g., housing, food, utilities, etc.). The site also offers special sections tailored to fathers, single and divorced parents, prospective parents, and grandparents caring for grandchildren. Teenagers and younger children also have special sections filled with useful age-appropriate information, games and fun activities. The site offers information as varied as the lives of the children and families we hope to help. Take a moment to look at the site, and you'll find information about:

- Prenatal care and child birth;
- Caring for babies, including "colicky" babies and how to soothe babies;
- Toilet training;
- Choosing a babysitter;
- Car seats;
- Crib safety, stroller safety and toy safety;
- Keeping your home safe for babies;
- For school age children, social skills, behavior, fighting, discipline and rules;
- Bike helmets, bike safety and summer safety, including water and window safety;
- Adolescent rebellion;
- Coping with grief, trauma and stress; and
- Leaving children home alone.

The effort to collect comprehensive, reliable information that families would find useful and accessible was done in consultation with the Connecticut Clearinghouse at Wheeler Clinic. [CTParenting.com](http://www.CTParenting.com) features links to The American Academy of Pediatrics, universities such as Yale and UCONN, federal government agencies, and a host of state agencies, including the Connecticut Departments of Environmental Protection, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services, Labor, and the Governor's Prevention Partnership.

As you know, strengthening families and improving child and family well-being is an important part of DCF's mission, and providing families with the information they need to make good decisions is a great way to promote that mission. Please take some time to look at [www.CTParenting.com](http://www.CTParenting.com) and share it with families you know. You will be giving them an important tool to improve their lives and promote the safety and well-being of their children.

Thank you for working together with the Department and our staff in our shared mission to make Connecticut a better place for all children and families.

