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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Family Service Launches Nurturing Parenting Program in Time for National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. According to Child Welfare Information Gateway's most recent publication, an estimated 686,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect nationwide in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

In one of their many efforts to prevent child abuse, Family Service Association of Bucks County recently launched the Nurturing Parenting Program, a series of in-home classes and assessments designed to build nurturing skills as alternatives to negative parenting attitudes and practices. Nurturing Parenting was developed to help families who are at high risk for abuse and neglect or who have been identified by child welfare agencies for past child abuse or neglect.

Referrals for Family Service's Nurturing Parenting Program will come primarily from Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency, the county's lead organization for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. Lynne Rainey, LSW, Director of Bucks County Children and Youth, states: "The Nurturing Parenting model is a proven, evidence-based program with a long track record of success. It is recognized nationally for its effectiveness in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. Thanks to Nurturing Parenting and our partnership with Family Service, our families will receive enhanced comprehensive services."

One of the main goals of Nurturing Parenting is to reduce or eliminate the need for future intervention. In order to do so, the curriculum utilizes measurable outcomes through assessments that identify "high risk" parenting practices and beliefs that could potentially put a child at risk. Parents are assessed initially and then reassessed regularly to determine their progress and remaining level of risk. In between assessments, Family Service staff customize the Nurturing Parenting curriculum to build on parents' strengths and address weaknesses.

Parents and children meet separately and jointly during a ninety-minute lesson once a week for fifteen weeks. By participating in discussion, role-play and communication exercises, participants learn how to build their nurturing family skills as dads, moms, sons and daughters. Family Service staff will begin meeting with families in their homes this month to start the series of Nurturing Parenting lessons and assessments.

To learn more, visit [www.fsabc.org](http://www.fsabc.org) or contact Erin Perry, Director of Community Based Programs, at (215) 757-6916, ext. 232 or [eperry@fsabc.org](mailto:eperry@fsabc.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2014). *Child Maltreatment 2012: Summary of key findings*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

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The mission of Family Service Association of Bucks County is to protect, maintain, strengthen and enhance individuals, families and children and their social and psychological functioning. Visit [www.fsabc.org](http://www.fsabc.org) to donate, volunteer and learn more about how Family Service helps more than 9,000 children, adults and seniors each year.