

National Family Week: Connections Count *Traci B. Hawkins, MA LLP*



Strong families are at the center of strong communities. *Connections Count* is the theme of National Family Week which runs the last week of November and is organized by Family Service and Children's Aid and the Alliance for Children and Families. Children live better lives when their families are strong. When they live in communities that connect families to networks of support and tangible benefits, which include economic self-sufficiency, reliable child care, dependable transportation, affordable housing, assessable healthcare, and applicable education and training, families become stronger. Everyone has a role in making families successful!

Families Make Connections Count. To enhance your connections, here are some quick and easy ideas for your family and/or friends to participate in the national celebration:

- ❖ Plan a "family supper" with your neighbors.
- ❖ Write a thank you note to someone who helps your family.
- ❖ Send a thank you to a person in the armed forces and lend your support to his or her family.
- ❖ Hold a Family Night with games and activities.
- ❖ Encourage employers to consider family-friendly work options like flexible hours and time off to attend school functions.
- ❖ Lend your support to local Family Week activities by helping plan them, participate as a volunteer or attend local events.
- ❖ Plan your own National Family Week event.

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