



# THE ADVOCATE

## Empowering Families into Fall



Welcome to the October, 2024 issue of The Advocate! In this month's newsletter we spotlight key academic articles addressing critical issues affecting children and families. Explore research on teen dating violence, learn about the perspective of adaptation from parents with autistic children, and discover an innovative, new strategy being discussed to keep children out of state custody. Each of these resources will provide valuable knowledge for advocates working to protect and empower children and families in Tennessee!

### Legislative Updates

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### Children and Youth Articles



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Sadly, adolescent girls are facing alarming rates of intimate partner violence. Partner violence can have a devastating impact on young people's health, educational achievement, future relationships, and lifelong prospects. Click the link to read a study that provides a detailed analysis of the prevalence of physical and/or sexual partner violence experienced by 15 to 19-year-old girls who have been in intimate relationships.

[Learn More](#)



Mothers of autistic children encounter numerous daily challenges that can affect their adaptation. While many studies have documented the impact on mothers of having an autistic child and factors contributing to their adaptation and their experiences of motherhood, few have examined how mothers of autistic children perceive their overall adaptation. Click the link to learn about a qualitative investigation on how mothers with autistic children perceive stressors, facilitators, and outcomes of adaptation in various life domains.

[Learn More](#)



It's imperative to support and advocate for policies and funding that will positively impact children and youth in Tennessee. TCCY has just released it's Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025-26! Click the button below to find specific recommendations around youth justice, health, child welfare,



Explore the broad bipartisan support for kinship placements when children need to be separated from their parents and placed in foster care. Learn from an expert panel of those with lived experience, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and legal experts who gathered to

mental health, child care and education!

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provide a well rounded discussion that considers kinship care's practical, legal, and emotional aspects.

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Disasters are unpredictable, but your family can prepare and plan together for emergencies, reducing the stress and danger they bring. Healthchildren.org has great resources for understanding disaster and knowing your family's preparedness needs.

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Find great resources in this issue of *Young Children*. Authors demonstrate different ways early childhood educators can use research-informed strategies, materials, and activities to build from children's individual as well as social and cultural assets.

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## Mental Health Resources

[TN Partners for Health](#)

[TDMHSAS Mental Health Services](#)

[988 Hotline](#)

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, October 3** - Youth Transitions Advisory Council - Lentz Public Health Department, 2500 Charlotte Ave. Nashville, TN. 1p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 8** - Second Look Commission Meeting - contact [kylie.graves@tn.gov](mailto:kylie.graves@tn.gov) for more information.

**Tuesday, October 22** - Upper Cumberland on Children and Youth's, "The Social Media Slippery Slope: Consequences for Sleep Loss & Mental Health Including Social Media Ethics" - 1104 England Dr. Cookeville, TN 9a.m. - 11a.m.

**Wednesday, October 30** - Resilient Tennessee Networking Meeting - 440  
Hogan Rd. Nashville, TN. 10a.m. - 2p.m.

**Wednesday, October 30** - ETCCY's Resilient Together: How to Build "Bounce  
Back" People, Families, Schools, and Communities - 205 Bridgewater Rd.  
Knoxville, TN. 9:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and  
Youth | [Website](#)



**Tennessee  
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TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON  
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