

## Young Children Priority One Advisory Council

**Dedicated to supporting the mission of Kiwanis to improve the lives of children**

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## Young Children Priority One

focuses on children prenatal through age 5.

Four Common Areas of Concern:

- maternal and child health
- child care and development
- parent education and support
- safety and pediatric trauma

These areas of concern were identified and recommended by experts in early child development.

Clubs are encouraged to survey their community and identify the most critical local needs. Programs and projects might be for a single year or regularly repeated.

Remember new babies are born every year, so this may be an ongoing need. Meaningful projects serving young children can be identified for any club's budget.

This brochure was developed by the Young Children Priority One Advisory Council. Information contained is from Kiwanis International's YC:PO website, Council members, and experts in the field of early childhood education.

[www.Kiwanis.org](http://www.Kiwanis.org)



## Kiwanis Young Children Priority One

**Addressing the needs of children prenatal to age 5**



## Kiwanis International

launched the Young Children: Priority One program in October of 1990 in an effort to focus on the needs of children age 0–5.

In the years since Young Children: Priority One (YC:PO) was introduced, remarkable advances in technology have changed our understanding of human brain development during the first few years of life. These findings confirm the importance of Kiwanis' involvement in YC:PO projects—and the impact we can have on society by focusing on children in these developmental stages.

This is especially true for children who are at risk and more likely to fail in school and in society.

Kiwanis can literally change those children's lives. This is true no matter where in the world a child lives.



## Changing children's lives

There are so many children in need and so many ways to help. YC:PO project ideas fall into four categories—maternal and infant health, child care and development, parent education and support, and safety and pediatric trauma. If children's needs in your community don't fit these areas, feel free to innovate. Here are some tips to get you started.

**Learn about your community.** Since children's needs vary from community to community, learn what those needs are and determine how your club can make a difference.

**Know who to talk to.** Approach local agencies or nonprofit groups already involved in the community.

**Work together.** Collaborate with other organizations so you can do more for children.

**Think globally.** Tackle the challenges that face children in every country—child abuse and neglect, hunger, the need for medical treatment, and exposure to the toxic effects of alcohol, cigarette smoke or drugs in utero.

**Get help.** Check out the helpful resources at [www.KiwanisOne.org/YC:PO](http://www.KiwanisOne.org/YC:PO). If you can't find a service bulletin that fits your project, the staff at Kiwanis International and the members of the YC:PO Advisory Council can help.

## Potential Service Projects

These are samples of successful projects. Should you identify a different need in your community, feel free to pursue dealing with that. Help is available from our YC:PO Advisory Council members if you need it.

### Maternal and Infant Health

Immunizations  
Alcohol awareness  
Lead poisoning  
The effects of cigarette smoke on your baby before it's born  
Childhood diseases you can prevent

### Child care and development

Child Safe Playgrounds  
Child and Parent Play days  
Intergenerational programs  
Child care education  
Early childhood development  
Brain development  
Reading Is Fundamental

### Parent education and support

Parenting fair  
Parenting education  
Prevention of child abuse  
Parents Anonymous  
Shaken Baby Syndrome  
Home visitation programs  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

### Safety and pediatric trauma

Home security checklist  
Prevention of Burns  
Smoke detector safety  
Open water safety  
Preventing Pediatric trauma  
Children's Miracle Network  
Kiwanis dolls