



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Missouri Pediatricians Provide Tips for Parents in Aftermath of School Shooting**

*MOAAP Shares Guidance on How to Talk to Your Kids and Provide Support*

MISSOURI - The Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MOAAP) is offering guidance and resources for parents in the wake of another devastating mass shooting.

“Our hearts are with the families of the children and adults lost in Uvalde, TX, and other recent mass shootings. This news is gut-wrenching and hard to process,” said pediatrician Dr. Kristin Sohl, MD, FAAP, President of MOAAP. “We encourage caregivers to be attentive to the children in your lives during this sensitive time.”

It may be hard to know what to share or not share with children. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages parents, teachers, child care providers, and others who work closely with children to filter information about the event and present it in a way that their child can understand, adjust to and cope with. You can find [specific tips here](#).

Signs to monitor that may show your child is having trouble processing this event include:

- Sleep problems
- Complaints of headache, generally feeling unwell, or even loss of appetite
- Regressive behavior changes like clinginess, immaturity, or other changes in mood or behavior
- Emotional issues such as sadness, anxiety, fear or depression

For more information on helping your child during this time, visit [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) and call your pediatrician.

In addition to providing short-term guidance to help families, MOAAP will continue its policy work toward systems change to advance its mission.

“Our mission is to promote the health of children,” said Dr. Maya Moody, DO, President-elect of MOAAP. “We must advocate for policies that ensure the safety of our children - it’s our job to be their voice.”

### About MOAAP

The Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics(MOAAP) is comprised of over 1,000 pediatricians from across the state. Our mission is to promote the health of all Missouri’s children through advocacy, education, and collaboration. For more information, visit [missouriaap.org](http://missouriaap.org)

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