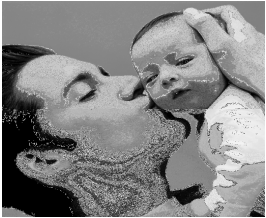


Reducing Risks and Building Protective Factors to Keep Children Safe and Families Strong



All families face challenges and obstacles that have the potential to threaten their ability to provide a safe, nurturing home for their children. Family support programs help families build upon their unique skills and strengths to develop protective factors that will act as a buffer against the daily stress and challenges of parenting. By examining the factors that put families at risk and the factors that protect them, we will understand the role that everyone can play in keeping children safe and families strong.

Risk Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment

Social Factors

- Social Isolation/Lack of Social Support
- Poor Family Relationships
- Poverty
- Lack of Access to Medical Care or Social Services
- Community Violence and Societal Norm of Violence

Parental Factors

- Inaccurate Knowledge of Child Development
- Lack of Parental Confidence
- Single or Adolescent Parenthood
- Inability to Advocate for Family Needs
- Childhood History of Abuse
- Low Educational Levels
- Substance Abuse
- Parental Unemployment

Child Risk Factors

- Temperament: difficult or slow to warm up
- Disability, chronic or serious illness
- Child aggression, behavior problems, attention deficits

Protective Factors Associated with Family Strength

Social Factors

- Access to Health Care and Social Services
- Good Schools
- Supportive Adults Outside of Family to Serve as Mentors and Role Models

Parental/Family Factors

- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- High Parental Education
- Positive and Warm Parent-Child Relationships
- Social Connections and Social Support
- Respectful and Trusting Communication
- Child Participation in Extracurricular Activities
- Parental Monitoring, Supervision, and Involvement

Child Protective Factors

- Good health, adequate development
- Above-average intelligence
- Easy temperament, positive disposition