

Early & Appropriate Interventions for Child Abuse Prevention

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Child Abuse Prevention



- Certain attributes increase positive outcomes for children and families.
 - Protect families from stress like a helmet protects the head from trauma.
 - A “buffer” to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- Child abuse prevention should focus on promoting and enhancing these “protective factors.”

Six Protective Factors



- Nurturing and Attachment
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports for Parents
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

1. Nurturing and Attachment



- Positive interaction between children and parents
- Caring, attentive relationship
- Trust and consistency

Barriers to Attachment

- Child

- Hospital stays
- Foster care, adoption, changes in caregivers
- Mental or physical health problems

- Parent

- Stress
- Alcohol or drug use
- Fatigue
- Poor attachment with own parents
- Mental or physical health problems

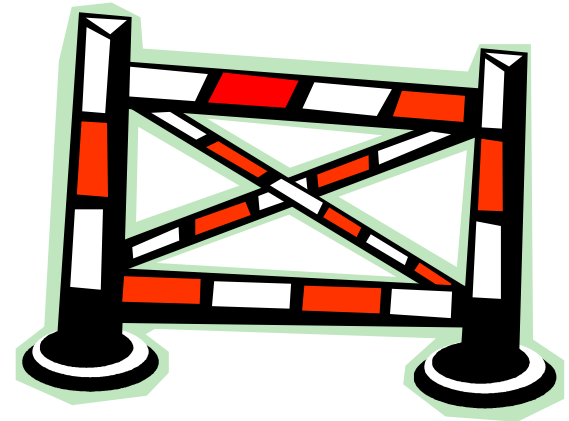
2. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

- Parents know what to expect from children at each age
- Parents have understanding of their child's behavior
- Parents know appropriate discipline and support techniques



Barriers to Knowledge

- Parent's own families used harsh discipline techniques
- Children who have developmental or behavioral problems
- Children with special needs
- Parent's mental health or cognitive abilities
- Information was never made available to parent



3. Parental Resilience

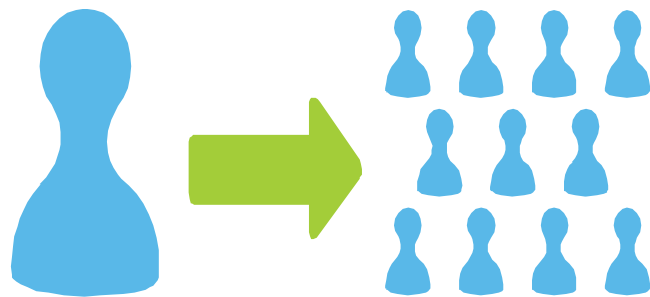


- The ability to handle stress and cope with challenges
- Parents use creative problem-solving strategies and have a positive attitude
- Parents seek help when needed

Barriers to Parental Resilience

- Multiple life stressors
- Family history of abuse and neglect
- Mental health problems
- Physical health problems
- Financial difficulties
- Substance use
- Domestic violence
- Poor models of coping as a child
- Relationship problems
- System involvement

4. Social Connections



- Social connections lead to a larger support network for parents
- Isolation is a strong risk factor for abuse and neglect
- Social network can model appropriate parenting behaviors, provide encouragement, and identify problems

Barriers to Social Connections

- Transportation
- Child care
- Dysfunctional family dynamics
- First-time parents
- Community structure (ex. rural area)
- Being new to a community
- Busy schedule
- Recent divorce or separation
- Lack of social skills
- Mental health or substance use

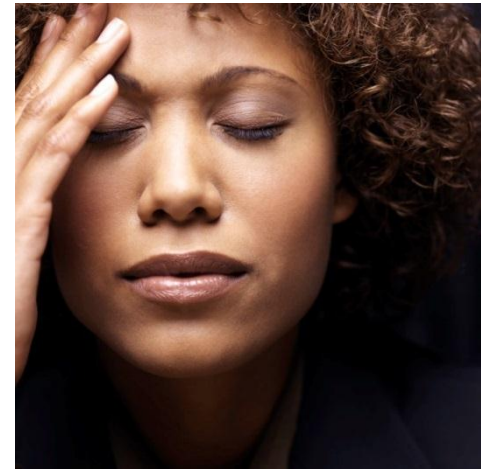
5. Concrete Support for Parents

- Access to resources that can minimize stress
- Ensuring basic needs of a family
 - Food
 - Shelter
 - Clothing
- Linked to other support services as needed, like counseling and substance abuse treatment



Barriers to Concrete Support

- Crisis situations
 - Parent incarcerated
 - Drug use
 - Mental health problems
- Lack of services in area
- No knowledge of services
- Stigma
- Language or cultural barriers



6. Social and Emotional Competence of Children

- The child can self-regulate and interacts positively with others
- When the child can communicate their needs and feelings, they are less likely to “act out”
- The child can advocate for him/herself



Barriers to Developing Competence



- Age of child
- Special needs
- Developmental delays
- Trauma
- Biochemical imbalances
- Poor role modeling
- Poor bonding and attachment

ESCAPE's Approach to Child Abuse Prevention

- Promote protective factors through classes and supportive programs.
 - Take programs to the communities that need them (over 80 sites).
 - Intervention for the entire Family System.
 - Program development through research and community need.



The First Five!

- Parenting—“what does it mean?”
- “How do I start?”
- Stress—“how do I deal with it?”
- “Why do children act the way they do?”
- “How does my child develop?”
- “How do I communicate with my child?”
- “How can I deal with conflict?”
- “What is the big deal about child abuse?”
- “What can I do when my child acts out?”
- “How can I keep my child safe?”



Questions/Further Information

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