



Background

Child maltreatment often occurs from a parent's lack of knowledge or preparation about childhood parenting, and many parents are wary of seeking advice. Many parents lack an understanding of child development, disciplinary tactics, and child health needs, which can lead to chronic stress and poor child development.



Please share this brochure with a friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker. Thank you for helping to raise awareness and helping to prevent child abuse and neglect in America.

Prevent Child Abuse America Advocates to:

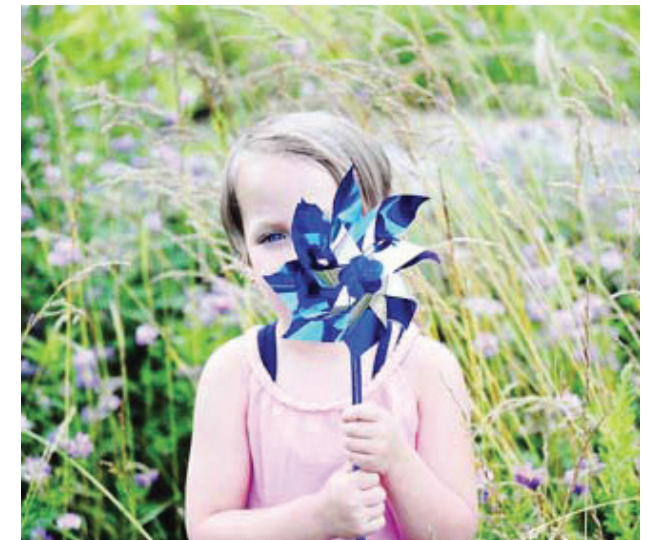
1. Promote availability of adequate resources for effective family support services, including home visiting, mental health services, housing, nutrition, and parent support groups, so that they are available to all children and their families.
2. Promote the idea that all adults play a role in the healthy development of all children.
3. Provide all families with the support and resources they need when they need them.
4. Fund research to better understand the best ways to raise awareness regarding the importance of supporting families.

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 and based in Chicago, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide. Prevent Child Abuse America educates parents, the public, and policymakers that prevention is possible, that services and policies exist to prevent child abuse and neglect, and that together we can enhance not only the lives of children and their families, but the nation as a whole.

www.preventchildabuse.org



Promoting Child Development by Supporting Families



**Prevent Child Abuse
America**

Effective Family Support Services for Promoting Child Development

No one program can provide families with all of the resources crucial to promoting child development.

Each community must provide a range of support services so all families can receive the types of support they need when they need it.

Some examples of family support services include: home visits, parent support groups, and family resource centers.

Additionally, communities also need to provide services that address key risk factors, including quality substance abuse treatment services, domestic violence programs, and mental health services.

Basic Needs of Healthy Families and Developing Children

- A trusting relationship with a caring adult
- Affordable and safe housing
- Affordable and quality healthcare
- Affordable and quality child and respite care
- Access to nutritional programs
- Access to employment and work force development programs



Actions You Can Take To Promote Child Development and Support Families

If you are parent, caretaker, or member of the community you can:

Enhance social connections and reduce isolation for families by providing emotional support, help solving problems, offering parenting advice, and giving concrete assistance to parents.

Provide support in times of need by helping to ensure that families can meet basic economic needs like food, shelter, clothing and healthcare.

Help educate the public on the stages of child development so people have appropriate expectations of children at the different stages of development.

Build awareness and advocate for the availability of services that support enhancing and identifying the social and emotional competence of children.

Promote policies and programs that support problems, build and sustain trusting relationships including relationships with their own children, and learn how and where to seek help when necessary.

Source: *These actions were adapted from the Center of the Study of Social Policy's Protective Factors Framework.*

