

YOU Can Help Prevent Child Neglect in Your Community

Child Neglect is Preventable!

We all have a role to play in ensuring that families can meet their children's needs.

What is Neglect?

It's More than a Family Matter

Child neglect is a failure to meet children's basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, medical care, supervision, shelter) whether the failure is the responsibility of parents, communities or society – and this void, places children in harm's way.

(National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds)

In Your Own Family

1. Learn about your own strengths and protective factors and build on them. Protective factors are characteristics or conditions that reduce or buffer the effects of risk, stress or trauma. A protective factor is an asset of some kind. They include a person's skills, strengths, resources, supports and coping strategies. For information: <http://www.friendsnrc.org/protective-factors> <http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>
2. Recognize you are doing your best as a parent and that everyone experiences parenting challenges at some time. Don't be too hard on yourself or afraid to seek help or add itional resources and supports.
3. Learn about your own community resources so you can access supports to help you cope effectively when stressful situations challenge your parenting confidence or make it difficult for you to meet your children's needs.

With Families You Know

1. Build social connections by getting to know your neighbors and parents in your child's child care center or school.
2. Support families in your community in learning about and building protective factors.
3. Reach out to a family that is under stress – offer to watch the kids, drop off a meal, or whatever else might help them get through a difficult time.
4. Listen, empathize and instill hope whenever you speak with families confronting challenges.
5. Form a playgroup where parents can come together and support one another while their children play with peers.
6. Share information about the importance of child neglect prevention with your neighbors and others and ask them to help.

For Families in Your Community

1. Plan a neighborhood meeting with family, friends and agency representatives to share information about resources to meet families' needs.
2. Become a board member or volunteer at a family strengthening organization and ask how you can help expand the conversation about the importance of child neglect prevention.
3. Write a letter to the editor about what families in your community need and how meeting family needs can reduce the likelihood of child neglect.

The whole community benefits when children grow up to be healthy productive adults.

Together We Can Do More!

For more information, contact:

For All Families

1. Help others to understand how neglect can happen.
2. Help to change the dialogue from blaming parents to exploring ways to empower parents to raise their children safely.
3. Talk to your legislators about:
 - Developing new resources if there are gaps or
 - Expanding resources for families when needed.