Strengthening Families Protective Factors

The Pathway to Improved Outcomes for Children and Families

Everyday Actions That Help Build Protective Factors

Protective Factors
- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Results
- Strengthened Families
- Optimal Child Development
- Reduced Likelihood of Child Abuse and Neglect

Everyday Actions
- Demonstrate in multiple ways that parents are valued
- Honor each family’s race, language, culture, history and approach to parenting
- Encourage parents to manage stress effectively
- Support parents as decision-makers and help build decision-making and leadership skills
- Help parents understand how to buffer their child during stressful times
- Help families value, build, sustain and use social connections
- Create an inclusive environment
- Facilitate mutual support around parenting and other issues
- Promote engagement in the community and participation in community activities
- Model developmentally appropriate interactions with children
- Provide information and resources on parenting and child development
- Encourage exploration of parenting issues or concerns
- Provide opportunities to try out new parenting strategies
- Address parenting issues from a strength-based perspective
- Respond immediately when families are in crisis
- Provide information and connections to other services in the community
- Help families to develop skills and tools they need to identify their needs and connect to supports
- Help parents foster their child’s social emotional development
- Model nurturing support to children
- Include children’s social and emotional development activities in programming
- Help children develop a positive cultural identity and interact in a diverse society
- Respond proactively when social or emotional development seems to need support

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