

## Protective Factors

There are specific research-informed protective factors that help to prevent the occurrence of child neglect and abuse from happening in the first place. You can work to create community environments and public policies that promote these protective factors.

**1. Children's social and emotional development.** A child's ability to interact positively with others and communicate his or her emotions effectively helps us to be more responsive to their needs.

**2. Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development.** We learn what to look for at each age and how to help children reach their full potential within their own cultural identity.

**3. Parental resilience.** Recognizing the signs of stress and enhancing problem solving skills can help all of us continue to have courage during and after a crisis.

**4. Social connections.** Caregivers with family, friends, and neighbors to depend on have better support in times of need.

**5. Concrete supports for parents.** Caregivers with access to financial, housing, and other concrete resources and services that help them meet their basic needs can better attend to their role as parents.