

What Are Protective Factors?

Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities that promote healthy development and well-being. Put simply, they are the strengths that help to buffer and support families at risk for poor outcomes, including child abuse and neglect. Currently, there are several protective factors approaches in use, including:

1) **Strengthening Families™** (Center for the Study of Social Policy)

- Concrete Supports in Times of Need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Social and Emotional Competency of Children



2) **The Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) Protective Factors:**

- Caring Adults
- Positive Peers
- Positive Community
- Positive School Environment
- Economic Opportunities
- Self-Regulation
- Relational Skills
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Involvement in Positive Activities
- Parenting Competencies

3) **The Essentials for Childhood:**

- Promote the community norm that we all share responsibility for the well-being of children
- Raise awareness and commitment to support safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments
- Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs
- Create the context for healthy children and families through policies

For more information:

Strengthening Families: <http://www.cssp.org/>

The ACYF Protective Factors: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/?hasBeenRedirected=1>

Essentials for Childhood: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials.html>