

Libraries Can Help Prevent Childhood Abuse and Neglect

Strengthening Families™ has identified five protective factors that have been shown to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect:

Parental Resilience

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.

Partner with a local agency to offer classes on parenting and managing stress.

Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental, and spiritual support.

Offer programs that help families build communities and connect with each other.

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.

Create a display of library resources that includes books on child development and parenting topics.

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to concrete support and services that address families' needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.

Write library policies to help families in crisis (i.e., what to do when a child is left at the library after hours or when to let someone use the phone).

Social & Emotional Competence of Children

Help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain relationships.

Include social-emotional awareness activities during library programs and offer storytimes that explore different emotions.