

Strengthening Families: The Pathway to Improved Outcomes for Children and Families

How does your agency/organization/practice implement everyday actions that help build protective factors?



Parental Resilience

- Demonstrate in multiple ways that parents are valued
- Honor each families race, language, culture, history, & approach to parenting
- Encourage parents to manage stress effectively
- Support parents as decision-makers & help build decision-making & leadership skills
- Help parents understand how to buffer their child during stressful times

Social Connections

- Help families value, build, sustain & use social connections
- Create an inclusive environment
- Encourage opportunities for families to meet & network with one another.
- Promote engagement in the community & participation in community activities
- Work closely with family & parent advisory groups

Knowledge of Child Development

- Model developmentally appropriate interactions with children
- Provide information & resources on parenting & child development in families' home language
- Encourage exploration of parenting issues or concerns
- Provide opportunities to try out new parenting strategies
- Address parenting issues from a strength-based perspective

Concrete Support in Times of Need

- Respond immediately when families are in crisis
- Provide information & connections to other services in the community
- Help families to develop skills & tools they need to identify their needs & connect to supports
- Build relationships with families so they feel comfortable sharing challenges

Social & Emotional Competence of Children

- Educate parents on how to encourage their children to express feelings through words, artwork, & expressive play
- Help children develop a positive cultural identity & interact in a diverse society
- Include children's social & emotional development activities in programming
- Create an environment in which children feel safe to express their emotions

Nurturing & Attachment

- Create family education & skill building opportunities that promote attachment
- Model nurturing & consistent care to children & families
- Support children & families by understanding the impact of loss or trauma & how to respond appropriately