



Child Abuse Prevention

What is Prevention?

Strategies



Primary prevention stops maltreatment from ever occurring through innovative programming or larger public policies that support education or the employment of more people. Secondary prevention stops further abuse from happening by providing parenting education or removing the child from abusive situations. Tertiary prevention stops or alleviates additional trauma with abuse survivors.

Programs



The first step is understanding the importance of early childhood development and the various ways we can create loving, nurturing experiences and environments for our children through services like home visiting, other prevention programs and agencies, and through advocacy and policy. It is crucial to have support at every level from individuals, communities, and society.

Connecting with Resources



Local Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Councils as well as other agencies throughout Georgia provide home-visiting and family centered services to prevent child abuse. 1-800-CHILDREN is the statewide referral helpline dedicated to connecting people with services that promote the healthy development of children.

Prevention GOAL¹ Promote Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships and Environments for Children

Types of Prevention Programs in Georgia

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs*

SafeCare Augmented

Healthy Families America (HFA)

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

Healthy Steps

Early Head Start—Home Visiting

Home Visiting Programs

Families that participate in local home-visiting programs receive advice, guidance and other help from health, social service, and child development professionals and paraprofessionals. Parents learn to improve their family's health and improve their interaction skills with their children.²

Evidence-based home visiting programs have been shown to:

- Improve health and development.
- Prevent child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, and reduce emergency department visits.
- Improve school readiness and achievement.
- Reduce crime, including domestic violence.
- Improve family economic self-sufficiency.



*For more information and a complete list of Evidence-Based Parenting Programs go to <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/homevisiting>

Promoting Protective Factors

[Strengthening Families Georgia](#) (SFG) represents a multi-disciplinary partnership dedicated to embedding these five research based Protective Factors into services and supports for children and their families. ³

Parental Resilience

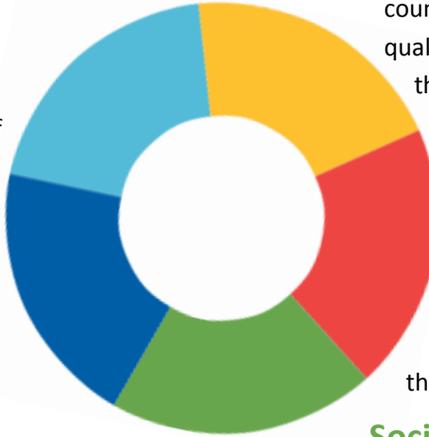
Parents can bounce back.

While resilience can be hard to define in terms of providing support to parents, it can consist of a combination of genetics, past experiences, and a strong base in the other four protective factors.

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Parents know where to turn for help.

[1-800-CHILDREN](#) is Georgia's statewide resource help-line for parents, caregivers, or agencies working with families to find concrete support in their area.



Parents having friends, family, and community that are supportive. [Family Connections](#) are located in all 159 counties in Georgia. They strive to improve the quality of life for their children and families through collaboration and community partnership.

Knowledge of Child Development

Parents know how children grow & learn.

[Better Brains for Babies](#) is part of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension and teaches the importance of early brain development.

Social & Emotional Competence of Children

Children learn to talk about & handle feelings. Understanding what is age appropriate for infants and children is key to parents talking to their children and setting realistic expectations. Resources are available at [Zero to Three](#) and other [Developmental Resources](#). ⁴

What can my community do?



There are many trainings and resources available throughout the state of Georgia.

- [Mandated Reporting Training](#)
- [Sexual Abuse Prevention Training](#)
- [Advocating for Prevention Awareness](#)
- [Support local agencies](#)
- [Better Brains for Babies](#)
- [Strengthening Families](#)
- [Family Connection Partnership](#)

Local Prevent Child Abuse Councils



[Councils](#) are a great resource for information and services.

What can individuals do?

To further increase child abuse prevention we encourage everyone to commit to the actions below, and share what you've done with others in your community

- Offering to help a parent or family in your neighborhood
- Giving time or other resources to local child-serving programs
- Simple actions like these can go a long way!



Set goals as a Community!

[Darkness to Light](#) trains communities in Stewards of Children, a child sexual abuse prevention program that uses the tipping point theory as a goal in each community.

[Children's Healthcare of Atlanta](#)

adopted the Period of PURPLE Crying[®] in 2009 and since has partnered with 30 organization to serve over 30,000 families by calling on the community to knit purple caps for infants to be given out with information on the dangers of shaking an infant.



Tipping Point Theory

Influence 5% of any given population and social change will be ignited.

To Find More Resources in Your Community

1-800-CHILDREN

A statewide information and referral number offering resources and support for parents, children, and professionals

AVAILABLE: Monday - Friday, 8 am to 7 pm

CALL: 1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373)



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

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Resources

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