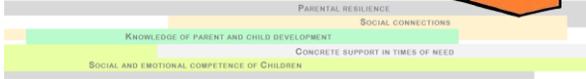


Strengthening Families through the Protective Factors: Introduction

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Today's Agenda

- Overview of the Strengthening Families framework
- The Five Protective Factors
- The importance of parental involvement and the critical role of culture

Discussion, stories, and personal insights are encouraged throughout.



The Upstream Solution



Can you think of real-life examples that parallel this story?



Protective Factors are the Upstream Solution

- What do the boats symbolize?
- What does the wind symbolize?
- What does the hammer symbolize?



What is the Strengthening Families Framework?

- The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is an international initiative that aims to develop and enhance **five specific characteristics** that **keep families strong** and **children safe from abuse and neglect**.
- Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy with funding from Doris Duke Charitable Trust.



What is the Strengthening Families Framework?

- Empowers people to make **small but significant changes**



Video: The Human Walking Program



What is the Strengthening Families Framework?



- Focuses on what's **strong** rather than what's wrong

Changing our Focus



Four Corners

A single parent who is working two jobs, has no transportation, and does not bring his/her child to the child care center on time.

An undocumented immigrant who works a construction job at night, has very limited English skills and has three children.

A parent who just moved here, appears to have an alcohol problem and has a child with special needs.

A parent of two preschoolers who is in a wheelchair due to cerebral palsy and whose extended family lives far away.

So, what is a protective factor?



Protective Factor- a characteristic that makes a parent, child or family more likely to thrive and less likely to experience a negative outcome.

- Based on **extensive research**
- Can be built through **everyday interaction**

Parental Resilience
Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges or adversity



PARENTAL RESILIENCE

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

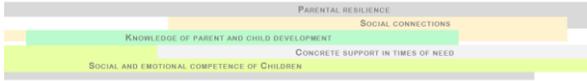
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

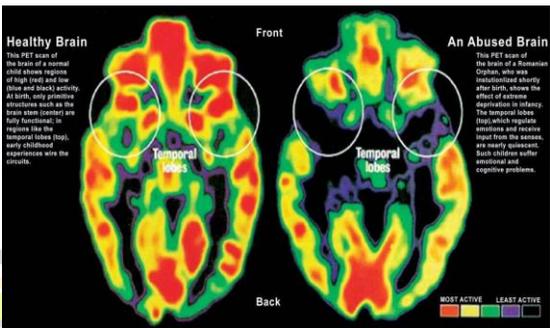
Parental Resilience



Parental Resilience

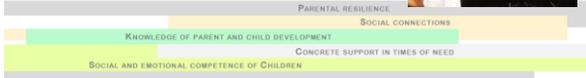
The same event elicits different responses from different people.





Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental and/or spiritual support



Social Connections: Who you gonna call?

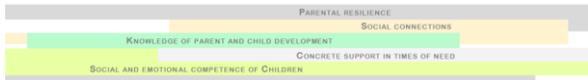
- Got a D on your midterm. You were expecting at least a B.
- You're home alone and you trip over a toy and twist your ankle.
- It's night and your dog got out. You can't find him/her anywhere.
- Someone drives by you and shouts a racist/sexist/bigoted slur at you.





Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

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



Essentials Homepage

- Overview
- Communicating with Your Child
- Creating Structure and Rules
- Giving Directions
- Using Discipline and Consequences
- Using Time-Out
- Practice Parenting Skills
- Parenting Videos
- Other Resources

"Charts & Graphs"
[Creating Structure and Rules]

<http://www.cdc.gov/parents/index.html>

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and helps minimize stress caused by challenges



Would you ask for help?

- Who would you ask?
- Would it be hard to ask?
- What might make it easier to ask?

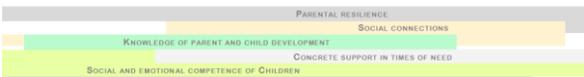
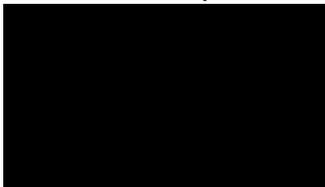


Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain relationships



Social and Emotional Competence of Children



Protective Factors

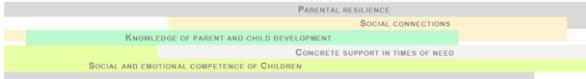
1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children



Strategies to Build Protective Factors in our Life and Work

Parental Resilience

- Respond to families in crisis
- Value and support parents

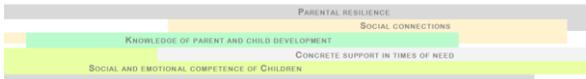


Strategies to Build Protective Factors in our Life and Work



Social Connections

- Facilitate mutual friendships and support



Strategies to Build Protective Factors in our Life and Work

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

- Strengthen parenting



KNOWLEDGE OF PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

Strategies to Build Protective Factors in our Life and Work

Concrete Support in Times of Need

- Link families to services and opportunities
- Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse and neglect



PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

Strategies to Build Protective Factors in our Life and Work

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

- Facilitate children's social and emotional development



PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

The importance of culture

- Culture shapes how protective factors work
- Understand your own natural cultural biases



Nothing About Me, Without Me

Involving Parents

- The family is the center of a child's life; working with parents gives us a more holistic view of how to support and strengthen that family.
- Highly involved families almost double the positive odds for their children in education, health promotion and social-emotional development.



How to remember the 5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS that make your family strong.



Thank you!

strengtheningfamilies.net

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