

Motivation Monday, April 6, 2020

We All Have a Part in Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: Building Concrete Supports in Families

“We All Need Help Sometimes.”

A Parent’s Definition of Concrete Supports, Adapted from the [PA Strengthening Families Website](#)

The Family Support Program Team and Early Intervention Team would like to remind everyone that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Wolf Administration encourages all Pennsylvanians to protect children and other vulnerable populations from all forms of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and harm. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) believes that protecting vulnerable Pennsylvanians from abuse and neglect is a shared responsibility. Especially as we are in this unprecedented public health crisis, the teams encourages all Pennsylvanians to educate themselves on [potential signs of abuse](#) and make the call to ChildLine if you suspect abuse or neglect. ChildLine is available 24/7 to anyone wishing to report child abuse and general child well-being concerns at [1-800-932-0313](tel:1-800-932-0313) and at www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov. ChildLine response will not change because staff are teleworking from their homes.

To acknowledge the importance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Family Support Team is working to increase awareness and understanding of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework through ***Motivation Mondays!*** This is important because when these five Protective Factors are present and robust in families, children are safe and families thrive.

This week, the Family Support Team is focusing on the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factor: Concrete Supports.

Why Is This Protective Factor Important?

Caregivers feel secure when they are able to meet their family’s day-to-day needs such as housing, food, and health care, education, counseling, and legal services. They are able to meet these needs when they know where to find help.

Preventing Child Abuse with Concrete Supports

Partnering with caregivers to identify and access resources in the community may help prevent the stress that sometimes precipitates child maltreatment. Providing concrete supports may also help prevent the unintended neglect that sometimes occurs when parents are unable to provide for their children. Concrete supports can be provided by:

- Asking caregivers to identify one concrete need.
- Coming up with a list of three possible avenues to get the need met.

Check out these [Action Sheets](#) from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), which provides information about each of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors, how to recognize the protective factor in families and activities families can do to build this protective factor!

Resources for This Protective Factor

- Accessing concrete supports during this unprecedented time has gotten a little easier with the support of The Department of Human Services (DHS) newly developed [Support & Referral Helpline](#).
- Be Strong Families Vitality Webinars will be offered during the week of April 6, 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

- Have you ever considered partnering with the business sector as a concrete support for your program in the prevention of child abuse & neglect in your community? Watch the Children's Bureau's [Pre-Recorded Digital Dialogue](#) on how to engage businesses and other partners in child abuse & neglect prevention efforts.
- In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Philadelphia Children's Alliance will be hosting an upcoming webinar titled, "Promoting Family Support and Child Well-Being in Supportive Communities" on April 9th from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. See the attached flyer for registration information.
- The Children's Bureau on Child Abuse & Neglect will host a virtual event on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM highlighting a San-Francisco based Family Resource Center and their work around relationship building with families. You can register [here](#).
- For assistance with Substance Use Disorder, resources for online recovery meetings and podcasts can be accessed through the [Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs](#).
- Many of your Families may be preparing for Tele-intervention services for the first time. The following information will help your families to know what to expect and how you can prepare. In this [tip sheet](#), we will refer to any home visitors and family support providers as a Home Visitor. Your Home Visitor and Agency information may be added at the bottom of the template.
- Further resources on how to incorporate this protective factor into your work with families can also be found in the attached handout from the attached handout adapted from the Children's Trust Fund Alliance.

Our Communities' Response

Community Prevention Partnerships (CPP) in Berks County is providing concrete supports by the car load:

"We set up an emergency response team to encourage families to stay home and practice social distancing. Any client who needs diapers, wipes, or food contacts their home visitor. The PAT supervisor, NFP supervisor and myself have our cars loaded with bags of food (non- perishable but supplemented with milk or fruit as we can), diapers, wipes and a limited amount of formula. We have a hygiene/sanitation procedure where we drop off the items on the porch or hand off at the door. We have served about 102 families and 450 individuals since last Monday.

~ Barb Werner (Executive Director)

Interested in sharing something positive from your community? Please send a message to your designated Family Support Consultant or Technical Assistance Specialist!

Social Media

Join The Children's Bureau in spreading the word to prevent child maltreatment by including [Special Thanks](#). The Office of Child Development and Early Learning would like to thank Early Intervention Technical Assistance and the Center for Schools and Communities for their support in this messaging.

Resources

For Family Support Programs all resources provided in this email will be posted the next day to <http://www.pa-home-visiting.org/covid-19/> under the appropriate Protective Factor heading. Please look for Concrete Supports in the menu on the right hand side of the page.