



CORE MEANINGS OF THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective Factor	Core Meaning
<p>Parental Resilience: Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity and trauma.</p>	<p><u>Resilience Related to General Life Stressors</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> managing the stressors of daily life calling forth the inner strength to proactively meet personal challenges, manage adversities and heal the effects of one's own traumas having self-confidence believing that one can make and achieve goals having faith; feeling hopeful solving general life problems having a positive attitude about life in general managing anger, anxiety, sadness, feelings of loneliness and other negative feelings seeking help for self when needed <p><u>Resilience Related to Parenting Stressors</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> calling forth the inner strength to proactively meet challenges related to one's child not allowing stressors to keep one from providing nurturing attention to one's child solving parenting problems having a positive attitude about one's parenting role and responsibilities seeking help for one's child when needed
<p>Social Connections: Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental and spiritual support.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Building trusting relationships; feeling respected and appreciated Having friends, family members, neighbors and others who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide emotional support (e.g., affirming parenting skills) provide instrumental support/concrete assistance (e.g., providing transportation) provide informational support/serve as a resource for parenting information provide spiritual support (e.g., providing hope and encouragement) provide an opportunity to engage with others in a positive manner help solve problems help buffer parents from stressors reduce feelings of isolation promote meaningful interactions in a context of mutual trust and respect Having a sense of connectedness that enables parents to feel secure, confident and empowered to "give back" to others



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<p>Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development.</p>	<p>Seeking, acquiring and using accurate and age/stage-related information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> parental behaviors that lead to early secure attachments the importance of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being attuned and emotionally available to one's child • being nurturing, responsive and reliable • regular, predictable and consistent routines • interactive language experiences • providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for one's child • providing opportunities for one's child to explore and to learn by doing appropriate developmental expectations positive discipline techniques recognizing and attending to the special needs of a child
<p>Concrete Support in Times of Need: Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> being resourceful being able to identify, find and receive the basic necessities everyone deserves in order to grow (e.g., healthy food, a safe environment), as well as specialized medical, mental health, social, educational or legal services understanding one's rights in accessing eligible services gaining knowledge of relevant services navigating through service systems seeking help when needed having financial security to cover basic needs and unexpected costs
<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Regarding the parent:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> having a positive parental mood having positive perceptions of and responsiveness to one's child responding warmly and consistently to a child's needs being satisfied in one's parental role fostering a strong and secure parent-child relationship creating an environment in which children feel safe to express their emotions being emotionally responsive to children and modeling empathy talking with one's child to promote vocabulary development and language learning setting clear expectations and limits separating emotions from actions encouraging and reinforcing social skills such as greeting others and taking turns creating opportunities for children to solve problems <p><u>Regarding the child:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> developing and engaging in self-regulating behaviors interacting positively with others using words and language skills communicating emotions effectively