

THE FIVE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

There are specific research-informed protective factors that help to prevent the occurrence of child neglect and abuse. In Minnesota, we are working to create community environments and public policies that promote these protective factors.

1. Nurturing and attachment. Building a close bond helps parents better understand, respond to, and communicate with their children.

2. Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development. Parents learn what to look for at each age and how to help their children reach their full potential.

3. Parental resilience. Recognizing the signs of stress and enhancing problem-solving skills can help parents build their capacity to cope.

4. Social connections. Parents with an extensive network of family, friends, and neighbors have better support in times of need.

5. Concrete supports for parents. Caregivers with access to financial, housing, and other concrete resources and services that help them meet their basic needs can better attend to their role as parents.

More about Protective Factors can be found in the *Strengthening Families and Communities 2009 Resource Guide* from www.childwelfare.gov.