

Child Maltreatment Prevention

Child Maltreatment Prevention consists of activities, strategies, and programs that reduce risk factors and increase protective factors identified in research as associated with child maltreatment.

These efforts are designed to increase the capacity of parents, caretakers, and communities to protect, nurture, and promote the healthy development of children.

One way to think about types of child maltreatment prevention efforts is to consider the population that is being targeted. Child maltreatment prevention programs can be universal, selective, or indicated.

- **Universal Strategies target the general population without regard to risk factors.** *Examples: Home visiting for all new parents; Public awareness campaigns.*
- **Selective Strategies target populations with risk factors for maltreatment.** *Examples: Home visiting for first-time, low-income mothers; Parent education programs for adolescent parents.*
- **Indicated Strategies target populations that have experienced abuse or neglect.** *Examples: Parent training for physically abusive parents; Support groups for non-offending parents of sexually abused children.*



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