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New Jersey Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
The Strengthening Families Approach to Build Protective Factors with Families
East Brunswick, NJ
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Presenters

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Workshop Objectives

- Participants will learn the seven key strategies that programs use to build five protective factors with families;

- Participants will be able to identify the five Protective Factors; and

- Participants will learn the three key “levers for change” that are necessary to support the Strengthening Families Initiative.

The Strengthening Families approach was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP). Their research documented the role that early care and education programs across the country can play in strengthening families and preventing abuse and neglect. A new conceptual framework and approach to preventing child abuse and neglect emerged from this study. The approached is organized around evidence-based protective factors that programs can build around young children by working differently with their families.
The CSSP research identified seven key strategies that exemplary early care and education centers incorporated into their programs to help build strong families.

Program Strategy 1: Facilitate friendships and mutual support
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Program Strategy 2:
Strengthening parenting

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Program Strategy 3:
Respond to family crises
Program Strategy 4:
Link families to services and opportunities

Program Strategy 5:
Facilitate children’s social and emotional development
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Program Strategy 6:
Observe and respond to early potential warning signs of child abuse or neglect

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Program Strategy 7:
Value and support parents
The five protective factors that helps promote optimal child development and reduce abuse and neglect.

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Protective Factor:

Parental resilience
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Protective Factor:

Social connections

Protective Factor:

Knowledge of parenting and child development
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Protective Factor:

Concrete support in times of need

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Protective Factor:

Social and emotional competence of children

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States participating in the Strengthening Families National Network have found three key “levers for change” that were necessary to support and sustain the work of Strengthening Families.

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**Lever for Change:**

Parent partnerships
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Lever for Change:

Professional development

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Lever for Change:

Policies and Systems
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For more information regarding Strengthening Families Approach please visit the Center for the Study of Social Policy website at:

http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families