

2023 Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina's TOP POLICY PRIORITIES For Our State & Its Children



North Carolina's future prosperity requires caring for our children and fostering their healthy development. When we invest upstream in public policies and programs that build strong families and supportive communities, we are securing the safe, stable, and nurturing environments all children need.

Focusing on the following priority issues for policies that support families is essential for North Carolina to prosper and for its families to thrive.



1 Increase investments in family support programs, such as Family Resource Centers, and evidence-based home visiting and parenting education programs.

Family Resource Centers are welcoming, community-centered hubs of support, services, and opportunities for families. Home visiting and parenting education programs provide connections, skills, and support to parents. Investments in these family support programs equip more parents with the resources and support to help them and their children thrive.



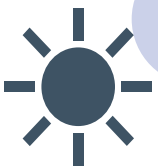
2 Implement family-friendly policies and programs in the workplace that support and strengthen families.

Family-friendly workplace policies improve the balance between work and family, while ensuring families' economic security. These workplace policies, such as paid family and medical leave, improve health, reduce stress, and reduce risk factors for child abuse and neglect.



3 Build families' economic security.

Empowering families to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and medical care by strengthening families' financial security is proven to reduce the risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Policies that increase the economic self-sufficiency of families alleviate some parental stress and help establish a stable household—two factors that can help protect children from abuse and neglect.



4 Invest in a comprehensive strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA).

Policies at all levels, from organizational to federal, must prioritize the safety of children and prevention of child sexual abuse. We must also invest in evidence-based programs that educate adults and children about reducing the risk of child sexual abuse. Adults must ultimately be responsible for the safety of children.

Every child is filled with tremendous promise, and we have a shared obligation to foster their potential.

Prevent Child Abuse NC works closely with our statewide partners to support policies that strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment. Our policy priorities align with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Technical Packages to Prevent Violence, including the [Essentials for Childhood framework](#) and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). We also prioritize strategies and goals in the [NC Early Childhood Action Plan](#) as well as the [Think Babies™ NC](#) initiative.

Social and Emotional Competence

Children's early experiences of being nurtured and developing a **positive relationship** with a caring adult **affects all aspects** of behavior and development.



Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Children **thrive** when parents provide **not only affection**, but **also** respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations, and **safe opportunities** that promote independence.



5

Protective Factors

Social Connections

Parents with a social network of **emotionally supportive friends, family, and neighbors** often find that it is **easier to care** for their children and themselves.



Resilience

Parents who can cope with the **stresses of everyday life**, as well an occasional crisis, have **resilience**; they have the flexibility and inner strength necessary to **bounce back** when things are not going well.



Concrete Support

Families who can meet their **own basic needs** for food, clothing, housing, and transportation—and who know how to access essential services such as childcare, health care, and mental health services to address family-specific needs—are **better able to ensure the safety and well-being of their children**.



ACEs can have devastating impacts on long term health

When a child experiences adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), it can have life-long consequences for physical and mental health. But, one caring adult can make a difference. That's why we know building protective factors in parents, communities and businesses is important.

For more information

Please call 919-829-8009 or email info@preventchildabusenc.org

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Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina™