



When Parents Fail To Thrive, So Do Their Children

Although there is no single factor that contributes to child abuse and neglect, there are certain factors when present in a family that have a powerful impact on a family's life. If these influences are negative, they can cause severe parental stress, lead to lack of control and result in child abuse or neglect. These factors can impact all families.

Factors Negatively Affecting Family Life

- Substance Abuse or Mental Illness
- Domestic violence;
- Financial crises, inadequate housing, unemployment, poverty, isolation;
- Prolonged high stress levels in the family;
- Chronic illnesses or complex medical conditions, in either the child or parent;
- For the parent or caregiver, emotional immaturity, low frustration tolerance leading to aggression, rigid thought and behavior patterns, history of emotional deprivation as a child;
- Lack of parenting skills and limited knowledge about child development;
- Extreme social isolation.



Every Alaska child deserves to be welcomed into the world and given an opportunity to succeed.

To accomplish this, each child needs a hand to hold, a place to play, a safe environment to grow up in, and the love and support of their families and caregivers.

**For families to thrive, every parent needs support, resources and information to be at their best as they go about raising their children
– Alaska's future.**

Strengthen Families Prevents Child Abuse

Home visiting programs for new parents, such as Healthy Families Alaska, can promote positive parenting practices, assure healthy child health and development, while preventing child abuse and neglect. Research demonstrates home visiting programs are most effective when they provide consistent, long-term support and address a range of issues related to parenting and other stresses in a manner that responds to a families' needs and cultural heritage. Based on this knowledge, Healthy Families Alaska provides voluntary in-home support to pregnant women and their young children. To learn more about Healthy Families Alaska call 907/269-3400.