



# How you can help prevent child abuse and neglect



**Be a good neighbor**  
BEING A PARENT ISN'T EASY. OFFER TO BABYSIT SO PARENT(S) CAN RUN ERRANDS, TAKE A TIME-OUT OR SIMPLY SPEND TIME TOGETHER.

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**Learn the signs of abuse and neglect.**



ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO OFFER parenting education.



**Take care of yourself**  
WHEN BIG AND LITTLE PROBLEMS BECOME TOO MUCH, TAKE A TIME OUT! DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON YOUR CHILD.



**Know the risk factors.**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
SOCIAL ISOLATION  
STRESS  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

ALL INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

**Start a parent support group**

SOMETIMES IT HELPS TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHO HAS BEEN THERE BEFORE.



**Learn how to cope with crying.**

CRYING IS NATURAL FOR BABIES BUT IT CAN BE VERY FRUSTRATING WHEN YOUR BABY WON'T STOP!



LEARN WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT PARENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.



**Volunteer in your community.**

FIND OUT ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED WITH PREVENTION PROGRAMS, CONTACT YOUR

LOCAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, BECOME A GUARDIAN AD LITEM OR USE YOUR VOICE TO ADVOCATE FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.



**Help distribute parent education materials.**



**Make a donation**

TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO PREVENT ABUSE.

DONATE YOUR TIME, MONEY OR OTHER RESOURCES TO SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORT PARENTS.

**Promote Respect**

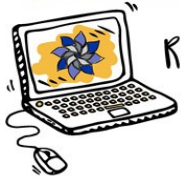


TREAT CHILDREN THE WAY YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED. THIS WILL SERVE AS A MODEL TO EVERYONE WHO SEES YOU.



**Mentor a new parent**

CHILDREN DON'T COME WITH INSTRUCTION MANUALS.



**Report**

SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

**Adopt a family.**

FAMILIES NEED HELP WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT ISSUES. BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP GET FAMILIES THROUGH STRESSFUL TIMES.



Wexford-Missaukee Child Protection Council



Prevent Child Abuse America