

The Protective Factors Framework: **Parenting & Child Development Checklist**

We know that families thrive when the five **Protective Factors** have a strong presence in their lives and communities. As early childhood professionals, it is important that we do our part to promote the Protective Factors and encourage families to create safe and emotionally stable homes.

The **Parenting & Child Development Factor** is the understanding that no parent is expected to know it all, and that there are resources to help. In fact, being a great parent is part natural and part learned. Parents who take the time to learn the fundamentals of child development are more likely to create homes with supportive learning environments and help children grow into secure, healthy adults!



Each interaction you have with families provides an important opportunity to connect them to parenting resources, provide child development information, and model and validate effective caregiving. Use this checklist to help guide you in encouraging parents to learn about their child's development.

If you do these, you are doing the work:

Model developmentally appropriate interactions with children

Provide information and resources on parenting and child development

Encourage exploration of parenting issues or concerns

Provide opportunities to try out new parenting strategies

Address parenting issues from a strength-based perspective

Create an environment where parents are comfortable asking for help

What this may look like in practice:



Families

- Hosting family events that promote interactions between parents and children.



ECE Providers

- Getting to know the families you work with and creating individual plans for how to support them and their child.
- Providing take-home activities for families to promote supporting DAP skills.



Community Members

- Offering resources and opportunities to learn about parenting.