



Strengthening Families Prevents Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2013, almost half a million California children were reported to child welfare services, and as many as three times that are estimated as going undetected.

The California Office of Child Abuse Prevention prevents child abuse and neglect by supporting families. [Strengthening Families™](#) is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors:

- 1) Parental resilience
- 2) Social connections
- 3) Knowledge of parenting and child development
- 4) Concrete support in times of need
- 5) Social and emotional competence of children

Ways You Can Help

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, take a moment to consider how you can help prevent child abuse: mentor a child, help a parent, and serve your community. For more ideas, visit [Get Involved](#).

Donate to the State Children's Trust Fund

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention supports activities that grow strong families, funded in part by donations to the [State Children's Trust Fund](#). Your donation can fund research, innovation and public awareness campaigns to educate parents and communities on how to prevent child abuse and neglect. To donate, visit the [State Children's Trust Fund](#).

Make a Connection

When we make meaningful connections with the children, youth, and families in our communities, we can help parents build upon their knowledge and skills and access the resources necessary to raise happy and healthy children.

For Child Abuse Prevention Month, share your story of connection – and maybe you will inspire others to do the same. Please visit the CDSS Facebook page, and describe your personal story of connecting with children and families. Follow [CDSS on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay connected.



Click [Understanding Child Abuse & Neglect](#) to learn more.

Source: *Institute of Medicine and National Research Council of the National Academies.*

To learn more about abuse and neglect, watch this 2-minute [video](#) by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

