

POSITIVE PROTECTIVE EXPERIENCES

HELP PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

A child growing up with positive, nurturing experiences may be less likely to encounter adverse experiences. Some examples of adverse events are abuse and substance misuse.

The CDC offers these ways to foster positivity in children's lives:

- Establish a routine. Children feel secure and thrive when the environment is structured for them.
- Praise your child when she does something right. The more you praise a behavior, the more likely it is your child will behave the same way again.
- Pay attention to your child when he is trying to communicate with you. Giving him your full attention will make him feel like you care about what he has to say.
- Set aside time each day to talk and play with your child. Creating a special time lets your child know she is important and strengthens the bond between the two of you.
- You may face challenges. It's ok to ask for help. Reach out to babysitters, friends, relatives and neighbor.

Search Institute's 40 Development Assets were identified to help all children succeed.

The assets, based on world-wide research, include activities and values such as:

- Reading for pleasure three or more hours a week.
- Placing high value on helping others.

For additional Child Abuse Prevention Resources:

Gateway Region YMCA main office: 314-436-1177

[Illinois Department of Child and Family Services](#)

[Missouri Department of Social Services](#)

[The CDC: Creating Positive Childhood Experiences](#)

[Search Institute: Developmental Assets Framework](#)