Protective Factors

Part 1
Assessing for Protective Factors
Assessing for Protective Factors

Bringing Balance to the Picture
Assessing for Protective Factors

Comprehensive assessments include an evaluation of both strengths and challenges.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Utilizing a Strengths Based Perspective to identify protective factors.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Parental strengths that prevent and reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect include 5 protective factors:

- Nurturing & Attachment
- Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
- Family Functioning & Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports for Parents
Assessing for Protective Factors

Nurturing & Attachment

- 2 conditions that establish the closeness between the parent and the child.

- Nurturing is the result of the actions performed by the parent or caregiver to provide support and/or nourishment to help a child develop.

- Attachment is the connection or affection that exists between 2 individuals
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Nurturing & Attachment

- Exchange of smiles, hugs and kisses between child and parent
- Parent listens to child and is attentive and sensitive to child’s needs
- Parent speaks of child in positive terms even when discussing problems
- Parent participates in activities involving the child such as school, sports, play etc.
- Parent participates in activities that child wants/likes
- Parent expresses pride in child’s accomplishments
- Parent is able to soothe child
- Parent indicates happiness in being with the child
Assessing for Protective Factors

Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

Parent knowledge is demonstrated through discussion and demonstration of age appropriate and effective child management techniques.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

- Parents are realistic about expectations
- Parents provide clear and consistent messages
- Parent has some idea of what to do for child
- Parent provides structure and support
- Parent speaks to child in age appropriate manner
- Parent praises child when child behaves
- Parent can see misbehavior in the context of the child’s developmental needs
- Parent uses age appropriate discipline
Family Functioning and Resilience

- Family functioning is demonstrated by its ability to openly share positive and negative experiences and come together to accept, solve and manage problems on a day to day basis.

- Family resiliency is seen in the family’s ability to adapt and utilize strategies which will help them to persevere in times of crisis.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Family Functioning and Resilience

- Family members are able to talk about problems
- Family members are able to solve problems
- Family members listen to each other
- The family can discuss past problems that have been addressed successfully
- Family members are able to handle stress without significant negative consequences
- Family members pull together to address problems
Social Connections

Social connections are the friends, relatives and neighbors that provide social and emotional support to the parent and/or child.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Social Connections

- The parent is able to identify a person or people who the parent could go to ask for help
- The parent has people with whom he/she interacts frequently
- The extended family participates in activities together such as meals, recreation, holiday get togethers, etc.
- The family is involved in Church activities
- The family participates in formal and informal social activities
- The child is active in school or other organized activities
- The child interacts appropriately with other children and adults
Concrete Supports for Parents

Concrete supports are the tangible goods and services available to assist the family in coping with stress.
Assessing for Protective Factors

Signs of Concrete Supports for Parents

- Public Assistance
- Health Clinics
- Child care subsidies
- Subsidized housing
- Food pantries
- Home visiting
- Child welfare services
- Literacy programs
- Job preparation and placement services
- Financial support from friends or family
Assessing for Protective Factors

Protective Factors
Exercise
5 Protective Factors

1. Nurturing & Attachment
2. Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
3. Family Functioning & Resilience
4. Social Connections
5. Concrete Supports for Parents
Protective Factors

Part 2

Utilizing Protective Factors
Utilizing Protective Factors in Child Welfare Service Delivery

Protective Factors in evaluating child safety, permanency and well-being

Protective Factors in planning and providing services.
Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Safety Decisions

Weighing Potential Outcomes

- Certain harm resulting from child removal
- Risk of harm resulting from failure to remove
Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Safety Decisions

Weighing Strengths and Challenges

Parental Protective Factors for abuse and neglect

Risks Factors for abuse and neglect
Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Safety Decisions

Safety Decision Exercise
5 Protective Factors

1. Nurturing & Attachment
2. Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
3. Family Functioning & Resilience
4. Social Connections
5. Concrete Supports for Parents
Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Permanency Decisions

Permanency is a safe, secure, appropriate and lasting home.
Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Well-Being Decisions

Well-being is the overall physical and behavioral health of the child
Utilizing Protective Factors to Plan and Provide Services

LIFE OF THE CASE

NURTURING
UNDERSTANDING
RESILIENCE
CONNECTIONS
SUPPORTS
Utilizing Protective Factors to Plan and Provide Services

EXERCISE C
5 Protective Factors

1. Nurturing & Attachment
2. Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
3. Family Functioning & Resilience
4. Social Connections
5. Concrete Supports for Parents
Protective Factors