



What you will learn about Strengthening Families' Protective Factors

QRIS Indicator verified at Step 2 for Strengthening Families and Communities:

- Home based-provider communicates with families in a variety of ways.
- Program communicates with families in a variety of ways.
- The Strengthening Families Self-Assessment is completed annually.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROMOTES PROGRAM AND PROVIDER PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT PROTECTIVE FACTORS TO REDUCE STRESS, PROMOTE OPTIMAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT, AND PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. PROVIDE ADULT SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Staff demonstrates an understanding of the consequences of child abuse and neglect, and the power of the protective factor framework to prevent it. (Center for the Study of Social Policy Strengthening Families; a Protective Factor Framework. *The Research Behind Strengthening Families*)

Prevention policy in parent and staff handbooks includes a policy for preventing child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse. (Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines; Goal 25, Domain 2, Subdomain: Health. NAEYC Standard 10: Leadership and Management 10.D.03)

What does this look like in practice?

1. Staff receive training and ongoing program support to intentionally help families recognize and build the protective factors.
2. Programs regularly offer opportunities for families to socialize, provide information about children's physical, social, and emotional development, and make community resources easily available.
3. Staff recognizes early warning signs of stress and know how to report concerns.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES FRAMEWORK IS DESIGNED TO BUILD AND SUPPORT STRONG RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG FAMILIES AND STAFF.

Staff identifies and practices the interpersonal skills needed to create and maintain good relationships with families. (NAEYC Standard 7: Families)

Staff supports development of children's social and emotional competence. (Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines: Goal 27, Domain 3, Subdomain: Social Development and Goal 38, Domain 3, Subdomain: Emotional Development)

What does this look like in practice?

1. Programs communicate with families in a variety of ways: conferences, newsletters, email, social media, conversations, etc.
2. Staff create a welcoming atmosphere by addressing parents by name, inviting parents to visit their child at any time, providing a comfortable space for informal meetings, and offering regular opportunities to socialize and learn from each other.
3. Staff encourages children to express their feelings through words, artwork, and dramatic play.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROTECTIVE FACTORS UNIQUE TO THE NEEDS AND CAPACITY OF EACH PROGRAM, WHICH CAN BE INCLUDED IN AND OBSERVED BY THE EVERYDAY ACTIONS OF THE STAFF.

Specific everyday actions support the recognition and development of the five protective factors: parental resilience, social connection, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence. (Strengthening Families: *Self-assessment for Centers and Family Child Care*. NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships)

What does this look like in practice?

1. Programs post the five protective factors and regularly discuss their importance to quality early care throughout the program, among staff, and with parents.
2. Staff learn and intentionally incorporate the communication skills and everyday actions that support the development of the five protective factors.
3. Programs complete the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment and Action Plan, and update it annually.