

Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect

Points for discussion before you read: What are the factors that underline children's development in family environment. Which are positive and which have a negative influence on the children wellbeing?

Question 1. Match the words to their definitions. All the words appear in the Module text or video.

resilience	a. the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful; unfair, cruel or violent treatment of somebody
support	b. knowing something; knowing that something exists and is important; being interested in something
competence	c. not enough; not good enough
appropriate	d. the ability of people or things to feel better quickly after something unpleasant, such as shock, injury, etc.
protect	e. suitable, acceptable or correct for the particular circumstances
abuse	f. a feeling of being happy with your own character and abilities
neglect	g. to make sure that somebody/something is not harmed, injured, damaged, etc.
self-esteem	h. to fail to take care of somebody/something
inadequate	i. the ability to do something well
awareness	j. to help or encourage somebody/something by saying or showing that you agree with them/it; to give or be ready to give help to somebody if they need it

Question 2. Text: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/risk-and-protective-factors-child-abuse-and-neglect>

In the text look at Table 1 (Table 1: Common risk factors for child abuse and neglect) and Table 2 (Common protective factors for reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect). Match the selected factors to either risk factors (R) or protective factors (P).

- A. high self-esteem
- B. non-biological parent/s in the home
- C. supportive family environment
- D. secure attachment with parent/s
- E. extended family networks
- F. attention deficits
- G. inadequate housing
- H. exposure to racism and/or discrimination
- I. family expectations of pro-social behaviour
- J. family conflict or violence

Follow-up discussion: Can you foresee any potential domestic problems? Can they be prevented by social workers?

Question 3. Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph7UOPaQoJE> and match the family protective factors to their explanations or specific examples.

having access to services and resources, including the basics - like shelter, food and clothing, but also transportation, healthcare, unemployment insurance or access to childcare	I. Parental resilience
understanding how children develop,	II. Social connections
the ability to handle stress successfully, to manage life's ups and downs,	III. Social and emotional competence of children
helping to ensure that children have the ability to interact with others,	IV. Concrete support in times of need
having a network of support through family, friends and neighbours,	V. Knowledge of parenting and child development
having age-appropriate strategies to help them grow, especially socially and emotionally,	
the ability to self-regulate their behaviour and to communicate their feelings	

Case study: <https://www.scie.org.uk/assets/elearning/parentalsubstancemisuse/website/module3/main.html> (Parental Substance Misuse -> Module 3: Implications for children's social work practice -> Page 4)

Question 4. Think of your own ideas on strengthening or promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors which could be modified. Share your ideas in small groups. Which of them could be implemented in Poland? Where do social workers step in?