



Risk Factors

Each family has their own unique set of strengths and protective factors as well as risks and challenges. It is important to weigh assets, risks, and protective factors that interact with each other (Child Welfare Information Gateway):

Child risk factors as:

- ⇒ Premature birth, birth anomalies, low birth weight, exposure to toxins in utero
- ⇒ Temperament: difficult or slow to warm up
- ⇒ Physical/cognitive/emotional disability, chronic or serious illness
- ⇒ Childhood trauma
- ⇒ Anti-social peer group
- ⇒ Child aggression, behavior problems, attention deficits



Parent and family risk factors for child abuse as:

- ⇒ Personality Factors
- ⇒ Insecure attachment with own parents
- ⇒ Childhood history of abuse
- ⇒ High parental conflict, domestic violence
- ⇒ Family structure- single parent with lack of support, high number of children in household
- ⇒ Social isolation, lack of support
- ⇒ Parental psychopathology
- ⇒ Substance abuse
- ⇒ Separation/divorce, especially high conflict divorce
- ⇒ High general stress level
- ⇒ Poor parent-child interaction, negative attitudes and attributions about child's behavior
- ⇒ Inaccurate knowledge and expectations about child development

Social/environmental risk factors for child abuse as:

- ⇒ Low socioeconomic status
- ⇒ Stressful life events
- ⇒ Lack of access to medical care, health insurance, adequate child care, and social services
- ⇒ Parental unemployment; homelessness
- ⇒ Social isolation/lack of social support
- ⇒ Exposure to racism/discrimination
- ⇒ Poor schools
- ⇒ Exposure to environmental toxins
- ⇒ Dangerous/violent neighborhood
- ⇒ Community violence

Nebraska's Network of Care: www.dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare

Nebraska Family Helpline: 888-866-8660

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK