



## Topic Brief: Parenting and Child Well-being

**Date:** 11/9/2022

**Nomination Number:** 1019

**Purpose:** This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on October 20, 2022, through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

**Issue:** The nominator for this topic is concerned about the well-being of children, and requests development and promotion of policies around prevention of child maltreatment, parenting skills, and criminal justice.

**Findings:** The EPC program synthesizes research and does not create or influence policy. The suggestions from the nominator fall outside of the purview of AHRQ and the EPC Program. As such, no evidence product will be developed for this nomination.

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### Background

Parent education has been shown to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect by encouraging parenting practices that promote “safety, well-being, and permanency” for children and their families.<sup>1</sup> The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, reauthorized in 2010,<sup>2</sup> identifies parent education as a core prevention service. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds and provides information numerous programs and initiatives with the goal of improving parenting skills and preventing child abuse and neglect. Please see the “Resources” portion below for additional information and resources.

### Assessment Methods

We assessed nomination for priority for a systematic review or other AHRQ EHC report with a hierarchical process using established selection criteria. Assessment of each criteria determined the need to evaluate the next one.

1. Determine the *appropriateness* of the nominated topic for inclusion in the EHC program.
2. Establish the overall *importance* of a potential topic as representing a health or healthcare issue in the United States.
3. Determine the *desirability of new evidence review* by examining whether a new systematic review or other AHRQ product would be duplicative.
4. Assess the *potential impact* a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.
5. Assess whether the *current state of the evidence* allows for a systematic review or other AHRQ product (feasibility).
6. Determine the *potential value* of a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.

## Resources

Several groups have developed recommendations on screening and prevention of child maltreatment based on high-quality systematic reviews

- United States Preventive Services Task Force. The USPSTF is in the process of updating their systematic review and recommendation on Prevention of Child Maltreatment: Primary Care Interventions: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/draft-update-summary/primary-care-interventions-child-maltreatment>
- Bright Futures: <https://www.aap.org/en/practice-management/bright-futures/bright-futures-family-centered-care/bright-futures-family-pocket-guide-3rd-edition/>
- CDC Community Guide
  - Violence Prevention: Early Childhood Home Visitation To Prevent – Child Maltreatment: <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/violence-early-childhood-home-visitation-prevent-child-maltreatment.html>

The following resources may be of use to the nominator:

- The CDC has a resource around prevention of child maltreatment [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cm\\_prog\\_activities\\_guide-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cm_prog_activities_guide-a.pdf)
- Through the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#), HHS provides a list of [parent education programs](#) that focus on enhancing parenting practices and behaviors, and locating and accessing community services and supports for parents, among other things. These programs include, but are not limited to:
  - [ACT/Parents Raising Safe Kids Program](#): An 8-week research-based education program for parents and adults who care for young children to create early environments that protect children from violence.
  - [Changing Children’s World Foundation](#): Provides an International Child-Parent Development Program, an evidence-based parenting program that provides parents with education and support.
  - [Just In Time Parenting](#): A cooperative extension system that provides research-based information to families and connects parents to age-appropriate resources and advice from experts.
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway also provides an extensive list of [child abuse and neglect prevention organizations](#).
- The [Administration for Children and Families](#) (an arm of HHS) exists to promote “the economic and social well-being of families, children, youth, individuals and communities with funding, strategic partnerships, guidance, training, and technical assistance,” and provides a number of relevant resources for parents.

## References

1. Child Welfare Information Gateway. Issue Brief: Parent Education to Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Maltreatment. Washington, DC: 2019. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/parented.pdf#:~:text=Parent%20education%20reduces%20the%20risk%20of%20child%20abuse,skills%20needed%20to%20build%20healthy%20families%20and%20communities.>
  2. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. PL 115-271; 2018. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/capta.pdf>
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**Conflict of Interest:** None of the investigators have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

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