

“The health, productivity, and creativity of any society are the direct result of how the children of that society were treated.”

—Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph. D



STRONG FAMILIES BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES

HOW IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTED?

The Nurturing Center’s goal is to ensure that each child has the right to be treated with respect and live in safety with secure, healthy, nurturing relationships.

The first step in any successful prevention program is awareness that child abuse and neglect are problems in Flathead County. Just by listening to this information, you have begun the process of prevention.

There is no single cause of child abuse. It is a problem with numerous causes:

- * Parents that have unrealistic expectations for a child
- * Parents that are stressed and at “the end of their rope”
- * Lack of options — parents may resort to abusive behaviors when they can’t think of other choices
- * Social or geographic isolation
- * Substance abuse
- * Mental illness

A successful prevention strategy is comprehensive and offers families support *before* a child is abused or neglected.