

Things to know:

As mandated reporters, caregivers play a vital role in protecting children. These are unprecedented times where preventing child abuse and neglect is especially important. During the month upcoming months, OCFS is highlighting the importance of protective factors as proven strategies to reduce child abuse.

What are protective factors?

They are characteristics or conditions that reduce or buffer the effects of risk, stress, or trauma. A protective factor is an asset of some kind. Some examples of protective factors are:

- [Developing relationships with children's families](#)
- [Familiarizing yourself with the signs of abuse/maltreatment](#) - Abuse is not just physical; both words and actions can inflict deep, lasting wounds
- [Providing resource and referral to parents](#) - <https://www.nysparentguide.org/>
- [Modeling nurturing and responsive interactions with children](#) - use your own actions to show children and other adults that conflicts can be settled without hitting or yelling
- [Offering guidance to families regarding child development](#)

[Additional information regarding protective factors can be found here:](#)
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/promoting/protectfactors/>.