

ESSENTIALS FOR CHILDHOOD RESOURCE – INVESTING IN POSITIVE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IS PREVENTION

Investing in Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) Is Prevention

Positive Childhood Experiences are good things - like positive relationships, safe environments, and connection to community - that happen to children while they are growing up.

Policies that promote PCEs can help to make sure children have these good experiences by creating a strong foundation for lifelong well-being, promoting healthy outcomes, and reducing public health costs.¹

POLICIES THAT SUPPORT PCEs

Investing in policies that strengthen families and communities support PCEs.
Let's build a future where every child has the chance to thrive.

→ Strengthening Families and Caregiving

Policies such as childcare subsidies, paid leave, and state tax credits help caregivers with the support, tools, and resources they need to raise happy, healthy children.

→ Ensuring Strong Starts for Children

Access to home visiting programs, quality and affordable childcare, and good nutrition helps ensure children get the care and early learning they need to grow up healthy from the start.

→ Supporting Community Connectedness

Investing in communities, like supporting Family Resource Centers, helps children and families access important supports, stabilize crises, and promote healthy outcomes.

→ Fostering Safe, Stable, Nurturing Environments

Policies such as affordable housing support and investing in community-based child abuse prevention programs promote health and positive environments and ultimately build more prosperous communities.

→ Research shows that for every additional \$1,000 that states invest in public benefit programs, they experience measurable reductions in child abuse and neglect.²

→ Policies and programs that invest in PCEs can create environments where all families and children can flourish, stressors are reduced, and access to supportive relationships and environments increase. Promoting PCEs is not only prevention – it is an investment in building stronger families and communities.

¹ Sege RD, Aslam MV, Peterson C, et al. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Health and Opportunity Outcomes in 4 US States. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025;8(7):e2524435. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.24435

² Henry T. Puls, Matthew Hall, James D. Anderst, Tami Gurley, James Perrin, Paul J. Chung; State Spending on Public Benefit Programs and Child Maltreatment. *Pediatrics* November 2021; 148 (5): e2021050685. 10.1542/peds.2021-050685