



What is prevention?

- Primary Prevention – Services and efforts to prevent the occurrence of dysfunctional behavior in a population that has not demonstrated any signs of it.
** Promoting the welfare of children and families in a general population.*
- Secondary Prevention – Services and efforts to target persons/populations who are in circumstances where there is a high risk that dysfunctional behavior will occur.
** Supporting families who have stressors that put them at-risk for child abuse.*
- Tertiary Prevention – Services and interventions provided after the signs or incidences of abuse have occurred with the intention of preventing the recurrence of that behavior.
** Working with families to prevent future abuse when it has already occurred.*

Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey promotes primary and secondary prevention programs and activities.

Why prevention of child abuse and neglect?

- *Prevention Saves Lives* – In the United States there are more than 3 million incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect reported each year. An average of three children die each day as a result of maltreatment. In New Jersey, nearly 80,000 calls were made to the state's Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) report line in 1998.
- *Prevention is Humane* – The effects of child abuse last a lifetime. Research indicates that child abuse is associated with other social ills, such as substance abuse, delinquency, crime, and teen pregnancies.
- *Prevention is Cost Effective* – As a nation, we spend approximately \$9 billion annually in response to maltreatment. The costs associated with the after-effects of abuse – investigation, medical, court proceedings, and follow-up treatment – exceed \$10,000 per abused child per year.
- *Prevention Works* – Research has proven that prevention programs work. Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey is working to stop the abuse of children before it ever starts. Join the prevention mission. Your support can make a brighter future for New Jersey's children.