

# 1-Hour Webinar on Supporting Families in Building Resilience in Children; Birth through Five

## Presented by Mary Mackrain and Karen Cairone

Co-authors of For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers, and Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Preschool Children, Second Edition

# **Supporting Families in Promoting Resilience in their Children**

## **The Statistics**

- 1 in 5 children have social and emotional challenges, with only 2/3 of those children getting the help them need.
- An estimated 60 % of children experience some form of potentially traumatic event or circumstance at some point in their development.
- 6-20% of them go on to suffer some form of impairment or post-traumatic stress disorder.

## Trauma Defined

• The experience of an event or enduring conditions in which the individual's ability to integrate his/her emotional experience is overwhelmed and the individual experiences (either objectively or subjectively) a threat to his/her life, bodily integrity, or that of a caregiver or family (Saakvitne, K. et al, 2000).

## Social and Emotional Health Defined

It is the developing capacity to:

- Experience and regulate emotions,
- Form secure relationships, and
- Explore and learn
  - ... All within the context of one's family, community and cultural background <u>www.ZerotoThree.org</u>

## **Resilience Defined**

- The ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change, or to bounce back
- "Overcoming the Odds"

# Initiative: Using independent thought and action to meet needs

### **INFANT Behaviors:**

- Try to do new things
- · Imitate actions of others
- · Keep trying when unsuccessful
- Explore surroundings

### TODDLER Behaviors:

- Show concern for other children
- · Try to clean up after herself/himself
- Play with other children
- · Try to do things for herself/himself



#### PRESCHOOL Behaviors:

- · Choose to do a task that was hard for him/her
- · Try different ways to solve a problem
- · Try or ask to try new things or activities
- · Keep trying when unsuccessful (show persistence)
- · Make decisions for himself/herself
- · Start or organize play with other children



# Self-Regulation: Experiencing a range of feelings and expressing them in safe and healthy ways.

### **INFANT Behaviors:**

- Cooing and Babbling
- Smiling
- · Fussing when hungry or
- tired
- · Kicking legs when excited

### TODDLER Behaviors:

- Adjust to changes in routine
- Easily follow a daily routineHave regular sleeping
- patterns
- Easily go from one activity to another

### **PRESCHOOL Behaviors**

- Control his/her anger
- Show patience
- · Cooperate with others
- · Listen to or respect
- others

  Calm himself/herself
- down
- Play well with others



# Attachment/Relationships: Promoting and maintaining positive connections with others

### **INFANT Behaviors:**

- · Respond when spoken to
- Accept comfort from a familiar adult
- Show affection for familiar adult
- Make eye contact with others

### TODDLER Behaviors:

- Enjoy being cuddled
- Enjoy interacting with othersExpress a variety of
- emotions (e.g. happy, sad, mad)
- Reach for a familiar adult



### **PRESCHOOL Behaviors:**

- Show affection for familiar adults
- Ask adults to play with or read to him/her
  Trust familiar adults and
- believe what they say
- Appear happy when playing with others
- Show a preference for a certain adult, teacher or parent
- Seek help from children/adults when necessary



www.CenterForResilientChildren.org

# **Useful Strategies to Help Families Promote Resilience**

All Resources below are located together on a special link, exclusively for attendees of this webinar! <u>http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/families</u>



### 1. Use Social and Emotional Lenses Every Day.

- Infant, toddler, and preschool routine based posters: www.ecmhc.org
- Infant Toddler Temperament Tool: <u>www.ecmhc.org</u>

### 2. Provide Calm Places and Soothing Activities for Children.

- DECA Infant and Toddler Strategies Guide: <u>www.kaplanco.com</u>
- Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategy Guide for Early Childhood Professionals, Second Edition: <u>www.kaplanco.com</u>

### 3. Talk (and read, and sing...) about Feelings.

- Socially Secure, Emotionally Strong Feelings Photos: www.centerforresilientchildren.org/Families
- Feelings poster/games: <u>www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu</u>
- Emotion literacy: <u>www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu</u>
- Songs of Resilience: Three free ones here! www.centerforresilientchildren.org/Families

### 4. Invite a Child to Help.

• Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure- 50 Activities to Promote Resilience: www.centerforresilientchildren.org/Families

### 5. Plan Ahead of Change and Transition.

- For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers: <u>www.kaplanco.com</u>
- Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Preschool Children, Second Edition: <u>www.kaplanco.com</u>
- Social Stories: <u>www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu</u>

# Don't forget... Standardized Screeners

- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T): http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/infants/assessments-resources/
- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers (DECA-P2), Second Edition: <u>http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/assessments-resources/</u>
- Choose and Use for Screening Tools: <u>www.ecmhc.org</u>

## And, Taking care of YOU!

- Devereux Adult Resilience Survey: <u>www.centerforresilientchildren.org/Families</u>
- Building Your Bounce, Simple Strategies for a Resilient You: <u>www.kaplanco.com</u>
- Stress and Relaxation tools and activities: <u>http://www.ecmhc.org/relaxation.html</u>

## Contact Information: Debi Mahler, dmahler@devereux.org, 610-574-6141