

OVERVIEW

Child maltreatment is the commission of acts that are harmful to children, such as neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and failure to provide needed health care and a safe environment.

Each year in the U.S., approximately 650,000 children are substantiated victims of child maltreatment, roughly 80% of whom experience neglect. Behavior-analytic interventions to prevent child maltreatment focus on improving parent-child interactions, home safety, and child health care, as well as conducting planned-activity training and promoting the achievement of developmental norms. Additionally, many states and countries have evidence-based home-visitation programs that are predicated on behavior-analytic foundations and focus on teaching parents the skills needed to prevent child maltreatment.

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Initial Publication

Lutzker, J. R., Frame, R. E., & Rice, J. M. (1982). Project 12-Ways: An ecobehavioral approach to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. *Education and Treatment of Children*, 5, 141-155.

Recommended Reading

Godley, S. H., Smith, J. E., Passetti, L. L., & Eyberg, S. M., & Robinson, E. A. (1992). Parent-child interaction training: Effects on family functioning. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, 11, 130-137.

Chaffin, M., Bard, D., Silovsky, J. F., & Beasley, W. H. (2012). A statewide trial of the SafeCare home-based services model with parents in child protective services. *Pediatrics*, 129, 509-515.

Sanders, M. R., Kirby, J. N., Tellegen, C. L., & Day, J. J. (2014). The Triple P Positive Parenting Program: A systematic review and meta-analysis of a multi-level system of parent support. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 34, 337-357.

Additional Resources

- ▶ [National Safecare Training and Research Center](#)
- ▶ [PCIT International](#)
- ▶ [Triple P International](#)