



MC&FP FACT SHEET

Data

- ✓ *The largest percentage of substantiated incidents of child abuse in military families is classified as child neglect, often due to a lack of supervision or exposure to harmful situations.*
- ✓ *It is less likely that a military family will be at risk for neglect or abuse as a result of unemployment, poverty, drug abuse or limited access to health care and support services when compared to civilian families.*

Background

The New Parent Support Program, a part of the Family Advocacy Program, is the Defense Department's voluntary child abuse and neglect prevention program. The New Parent Support Program uses a strengths-based model, focusing on establishing key protective factors and supporting expectant parents and parents with children under the age of 3.

Highlights

- The DoD remains committed to promoting resilient military families and healthy parenting practices through home visits, play groups, parenting classes and printed parenting resources. New Parent Support Program services vary by installation and service branch, but the core service, home visitation, is available to all military families whose life circumstances may place them at risk for child abuse or neglect.
- The program aims to help new parents and their children thrive, no matter their location or situation. Program staff provides parents with a network of professional support and the information they need to create a safe and nurturing environment for their children.





- The program promotes best practices in child abuse and neglect prevention among military families with children from birth to 3 years of age by using a framework based on six key protective factors:
 - Nurturing and attachment
 - Knowledge of parenting and child and youth development
 - Parental resilience
 - Social connections
 - Concrete supports for parents
 - Social and emotional competence of children

Additional information

New Parent Support Program contact information

www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil

New Parent Support Program Policy, “Department of Defense Instruction 6400.05”

www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/640005p.pdf

