

# *Preventing child abuse and neglect*

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*Prevention of child abuse and neglect is delivered through*

*public awareness activities  
skills based curricula for children*

*parent education programs  
home visitation programs*

## ***Public awareness***

Throughout the year, The Children's Aid Society distributes information kits to professionals in the community. The package includes information about child abuse and neglect along with positive parenting fliers for families. Persons should contact the CAS if they believe that a child is in need of protection, or if they believe the child or family needs assistance whereby the CAS will refer the family to another community service.

## ***Parenting education***

Parenting programs focus on decreasing the parental practices and behaviours that are associated with child abuse and neglect. Such programs usually target young parents and families dealing with a great deal of stress. The programs address

- developing and practicing positive discipline techniques
- learning about child development and age appropriate behaviours and milestones
- promoting positive play and interaction between parents and children

## ***Skills development for children***

Many schools and community services teach children about personal safety strategies that focus on physical safety, healthy lifestyle choices and inappropriate touching. These programs include

- school lessons and teaching
- puppet shows and role play
- films, videos, story books and comics

## ***Home visitation***

Home visitation programs emphasize the health and well-being of children and families. They offer a variety of family-focused services to pregnant mothers and/or families with new babies.

Programs cover such issues as

- positive parenting practices
- child development
- referral to other social and support services
- developing a safe environment

*Many of these programs exist in London and Middlesex, but, sadly they are under funded. They rely on the United Way and other funds to support their operations.*

*You can help by supporting the United Way and other fundraising efforts.*

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Children's Aid Society  
LONDON & MIDDLESEX  
La Société d'aide à l'enfance