

Child Safety Checklist:

- Babies should be placed on their backs when sleeping.
- Parents should not participate in activities or perform tasks that will distract them from focusing on their children when they are responsible for providing adult supervision.
- Do not expose children to family violence.
- Establish some clear rules about child care standards before leaving your children in someone else's care.
- Keep all hazardous objects out of a child's reach.
- Parents should have reasonable and age-appropriate expectations for children.
- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle.
- All children should remain in a car safety seat until the vehicle seatbelt properly fits them.
- Know where the closest emergency services are located, including the fire department, police station, hospital, and emergency shelter.
- Advocate for programs that provide families with education and support.

Resources

Military OneSource
1-800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD
1-800-422-4453

**U.S. Health and Human Services
Administration for Children
and Families**
www.childwelfare.gov

First Candle
www.firstcandle.org/programs
1-800-221-7437



**April is Child Abuse
Prevention Month**

Keep Our Children Safe

**Child Safety is a
Community Responsibility.**

Be **Informed**. Be **Attentive**. Be **Supportive**.



**CHILD
ABUSE
PREVENTION**

www.ffsp.navy.mil

Fleet & Family Support Program | New Parent Support Program

Be Informed

Child safety is a shared community responsibility. In order for our communities to thrive, we must all do our part to support the well-being of children and families. Communities must begin to recognize the different behaviors and life circumstances that may signal a need for assistance.

Below is a list of circumstances that frequently require support for new parents and families with young children:

- Birth of a child during deployment
- Single active-duty parent with young children
- Relationship problems – spouse or co-parenting conflict
- Parent and child bonding challenges
- Abrupt changes that negatively affect family finances
- Medical issues for a parent or child
- Family isolation
- Family crisis
- Infant deaths caused by accidental strangulation and suffocation in bed have increased sharply



Be Attentive



All families with young children need support to help maintain a safe, stable and nurturing home. For military families with young children, the deployment cycle can be a very trying time. This is why it's important for parents to stay connected to their family, friends and command leadership.

Below are a few suggestions on how communities can offer support without being intrusive:

- Initiate positive conversations with young parents.
- Talk with parents about their hopes and goals for their children.
- Help parents identify their needs.
- Share self-care strategies that you have used when feeling overwhelmed.
- Acknowledge parents' frustrations and recognize their efforts to address the issue.
- Establish and maintain consistent contact with young parents through routine telephone calls, texts or emails.
- Keep a watchful eye on the children in your neighborhood.
- Listen to parents when they tell you about their challenges.
- Keep a watchful eye on babies to ensure that they sleep on their backs and on firm bedding.

Be Supportive



All parents experience stress while raising young children, especially during the infancy and toddler stages; however, too many parents refuse to ask for help. Therefore, we encourage the military community to become familiar with the emergency resources that are available to families in times of need.

Below is a list of available resources:

- New Parent Support Program
- Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society
- American Red Cross
- Clinical Counseling
- Victim Advocacy
- Ombudsman Program
- Transitional Compensation
- Base Chaplain
- Base Security
- Military Hospital
- Base Clinic

For additional information on the programs listed above, contact the New Parent Support Home Visitation Program located at your local Fleet and Family Support Center. To find the installation closest to you, go to: www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil.

A Child's Well-Being Depends on a Safe, Stable and Nurturing Home.