EPISCenter

EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION & INTERVENTION SUPPORT CENTER

Pennsylvania Communities That Care

PAYS Protective Factor Profile

with Definitions & Links to Social Development Strategy

Social Development Strategy

Developed by Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Catalano, the Social Development Strategy organizes what researchers have discovered about protective factors into a model of social development that pinpoints the critical elements and processes leading to positive youth development. Chief among them is the process called bonding.

The Social Development Strategy acknowledges that human beings are hard-wired for group involvement and interaction. It doesn't matter whether that group is the school drama club or the local gang -- young people will affiliate with and adopt the standards of the group that offers the strongest incentives and the greatest psychological rewards. ***This bonding process is the element that plays the most significant part in determining whether young people will develop in healthy, positive ways.***

The Social Development Strategy offers a model for achieving healthy behaviors among young people -- by involving the community in:

- providing opportunities, skills, and recognition
- fostering attachment and commitment
- communicating healthy beliefs and clear standards

Protective Factors & the Social Development Strategy

Community Domain
Protective Factors

Protective Factors	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	✓		✓		
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		

School Domain
Protective Factors

Protective Factors	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	✓		✓		
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		

Family Domain
Protective Factors

Protective Factors	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Family Attachment			✓		
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	✓		✓		
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓	✓	

Peer/Individual Domain
Protective Factors

Protective Factors	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Religiosity				✓	✓
Belief in the Moral Order				✓	✓

Community Domain Protective Factors	Definition & Related PAYS Questions	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics

Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	When young people become involved in their communities by participating in activities and organizations that foster healthy development, they are more likely to form connections with Prosocial peers. Community involvement also provides the opportunity to bond with adult role models.
	
	⇒ *Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community:*
	
	   • *Sports teams?*
	   • *Scouting?*
	   • *Boys and girls clubs?*
	   • *4-H Clubs?*
	   • *Service clubs?*
	
	⇒ *There are lots of adults in my neighborhood I could talk to about something important.*
		✓		✓		

Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	Young people experience bonding as feeling valued and being seen as an asset. Students who feel recognized and rewarded by their community are less likely to engage in negative behaviors, because that recognition helps increase a student's self-esteem and the feeling of bondedness to that community. ⇒ *My neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know.* ⇒ *There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.* ⇒ *There are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.*		✓	✓		

Family Domain **Protective Factors**	Definition & Related PAYS Questions	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Family Attachment	One of the most effective ways to buffer children against risk factors is to strengthen their bonds with family members who embody healthy beliefs and clear standards. If children are attached to their parents and want to please the, they will be less likely to threaten that connection by doing things that their parents strongly disapprove of. ⇒ *Do you feel very close to your mother?* ⇒ *Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your mother?* ⇒ *Do you feel very close to your father?* ⇒ *Do you share your thought and feelings with your father?*			✓	✓	
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	When students have the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to their families, they fell closer to their family members and are less likely to get involved in risky behaviors. These opportunities for involvement reinforce family bonds and cause students to more easily adopt the norms projected by their families. ⇒ *My parents give me lots of chances to do fun things with them.* ⇒ *My parents ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made.* ⇒ *If I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.*	✓		✓		

Family Domain *(cont.)* Protective Factors	Definition & Related PAYS Questions	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	When family members reward their children for positive participation in activities, it further strengthens the bonds the children fell to their families, and helps promote clear standards for behavior. ⇒ *My parents notice when I am doing a good job and let me now about it.* ⇒ *How often do your parents tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?* ⇒ *Do you enjoy spending time with you mother?* ⇒ *Do you enjoy spending time with you father?*		✓	✓	✓	

School Domain Protective Factors	Definition & Related PAYS Questions	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	Giving students opportunities to participate in important activities at school helps to create a feeling of personal investment in their school. This results in greater bonding and adoption of the school's standards of behavior, reducing the likelihood that the will become involved in problem behaviors. ⇒ *In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.* ⇒ *There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.* ⇒ *Teachers ask me to work on special classroom projects./* ⇒ *There are lots of chances for students in my school to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.* ⇒ *I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.*	✔		✔		
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	Making students fell appreciated and rewarded for their involvement at school further strengthens school bonding, and helps to reduce the likelihood of their involvement in drug use and other problem behaviors. ⇒ *My teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and let's me know about it.* ⇒ *The school let's my parents know when I have done something well.* ⇒ *I feel safe at my school.* ⇒ *My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.*		✔	✔		

Peer/Individual Domain Protective Factors	Definition & Related PAYS Questions	Opportunities	Recognition	Bonding	Healthy Beliefs/ Clear Standards	Individual Characteristics
Religiosity	Religious institutions can help students develop firm Prosocial beliefs. Students who have preconceived ideas about certain activities are less vulnerable to becoming involved with antisocial behaviors because they have already adopted a social norm against those activities. ⇒ *How often do you attend religious services or activities?*				✓	✓
Belief in the Moral Order	When people feel bonded to society, they are more motivated to follow society's standard and expectations. Young people who have developed a positive belief system, and a clear sense of right and wrong, are less likely to become involved in problem behaviors. ⇒ *I think that it is okay to take something without asking, if you can get away with it.* ⇒ *I think sometimes it's ok to cheat at school.* ⇒ *It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.* ⇒ *It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.*				✓	✓