

What: The Protective Factors in Our Work-7 Program Strategies Activity- (adapted from The National Alliance Trainer's Manual, 2012)

Why: to help people connect with strategies, to understand things they are already doing and learn from others.

Who: For more information please contact Kerry B- kbaughman@nmcaa.net

How: *Time: 30 minutes Materials: poster paper, markers, small packets of post-it paper notes (post-it notes should be available for everyone)*

Place the seven strategies around the room on poster-size static paper – one strategy per sheet. All the participants have a pack of post-it notes. Instructions are to place one post-it note under each strategy, giving an example of something the participant is doing to promote that strategy. Each of the seven sheets should have as many post-it notes on it as there are participants.

1. **Facilitate friendships and mutual support** – Help parents connect with each other and develop social networks.
2. **Strengthen parenting** – Provide guidance, role modeling, and information on parent and child development, including special support around children's challenging behaviors.
3. **Respond to family crises** – Notice family stress, listen, make referrals, and help mobilize other parents to provide support as needed.
4. **Link families to services and opportunities** – Make and follow through on referrals, maintain relationships with service providers, and share community information with families.
5. **Facilitate children's social and emotional development** – Provide a nurturing and caring environment, use a structured curriculum for social and emotional development, teach parents to support that development and respond to challenges, and observe and respond to signs that development is not on track.
6. **Observe and respond to early warning signs of child abuse and neglect** – Consistently monitor child health and family stress, provide immediate outreach at signs of stress, establish clear protocols for staff response, and develop trusting relationships with social service and mental health agencies.
7. **Value and support parents** – Make all family members feel welcome, involve parents and caregivers in decision-making at all levels, and provide many opportunities for participation.