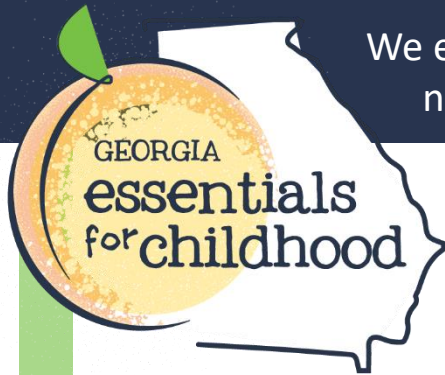


Georgia Essentials for Childhood

We envision a state where children and families thrive in connected, nurturing communities where they live, learn, work, and play.



Our Mission

To develop a common approach across multi-disciplinary organizations and stakeholders to align activities, programs, and policies so that all Georgia's children, youth and their families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

A Comprehensive Child Abuse & Neglect Framework

Georgia Essentials for Childhood is part of a comprehensive effort for child abuse and neglect prevention across several states using the *Essentials for Childhood* framework developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)¹.

We are working to **build resilient communities**, address and **prevent adverse childhood experiences**, **improve community environments**, and **reduce and destigmatize trauma**.

Georgia Essentials views this work through an intentional equity and racial justice lens. A child's race, ethnicity, gender, family income, or neighborhood should not predict their future success and well-being.

Using a common agenda and data-driven information, this effort is driven by 5 working groups:



Communication

Unified messaging and changing social norms



Data

Data collection and analysis to inform decisions



CANPP

Implementation of the Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Plan



Programs & Practices

Availability of best-practice strategies and programs



Policy

Engaging officials toward family-friendly policies

Georgia Essentials is led by the Division of Family and Children Services, the Department of Public Health, and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, and receives technical assistance from the CDC. This work is guided by a steering committee and includes public and private partners from across the state.

Georgia Statistics

A Call for Prevention

Child abuse and neglect is not caused by a single factor but by multiple factors related to the individual, family, community, and society at large. Environments that have high rates of violence, inequitable access to community resources, and are disproportionately affected by poverty or unemployment are contributors to child abuse and neglect.

On average, DFCS receives over **340 reports** of child abuse and neglect **each day**².

Georgia ranked **38th** in the nation for child well-being in 2022³.



Economic Well-Being

Rank: 35th

- 20% of children live in homes experiencing poverty
- 27% of children's parents lack secure employment



Family & Community

Rank: 40th

- 38% of children live in single-parent families
- 74% White vs. 46% Black & Latino families own homes



Education

Rank: 38th

- 51% of children ages 3–4 are not in school
- 68% of 4th graders are not proficient in reading
- 18% of high school students don't graduate on time



Health

Rank: 45th

- 10% of babies born have low birth weights
- 7% of children do not have health insurance
- 50% of pregnancy-related deaths are Black women⁴

Essentials for Childhood | Framework of Prevention Strategies

This framework is designed to outline critical goals for promoting safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments and preventing abuse and other forms of adversity. Working together, Georgians can create an environment in which children live their lives to the fullest potential.

To find Georgia specific information, visit abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials.

Strengthen economic supports to families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening household financial security• Family-friendly work policies
Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public engagement and education campaigns• Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
Provide quality care and education early in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool enrichment with family engagement• Licensing and accreditation or quality rating and improvement systems
Enhance parenting skills to promote child development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early childhood home visitation• Parenting skill and family relationship approaches
Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavioral parent training programs• Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure• Treatment to prevent negative behavior and later involvement in violence

Find Citations at:
TinyURL.com/GAEssentials

Georgia Statistics Citations

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. (2018). Essentials for childhood: Creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/essentials-for-childhood-framework508.pdf>
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2023). *Child Maltreatment 2021*. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/child-maltreatment-2021>
3. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2022). Kids Count Databook 2022. Baltimore, MD. Available at <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/publications> and state specific data at <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#GA>
4. Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) vital statistics data portal, "OASIS" (Online Analytical Statistical Information System) and "PRAMS" (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) survey data.

