



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN CAN LEAD TO DISABILITY**

*Maltreatment of vulnerable children can result in disability.*

A forum was held at the Brookings Institution on ‘Child Maltreatment’. Presenters at the forum were Congressional authors of legislation on child maltreatment, Senior Fellows from the Brookings Institution, researchers and policy experts on child maltreatment, a developer of evidence practices to ameliorate child maltreatment and a representative from the Office of Management and Budget.

### **Summary**

It was established there is need for evidence based interventions that prevent psychological parental risk factors, of maltreatment of children, such as mental health, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence. These psychological factors may have an adverse impact on developing children. Mental health evidence-based interventions can facilitate healthy parent-child relationships that enable environments that provide safe, stable nurturing relationships for children. Mothers who improve parenting skills show significant reductions in depression that improve parenting and child conduct. Mental health evidence-based prevention models can provide individualized mental health benefits related to healthy families and prevention of maltreatment to children. Standard manuals that describe protocols for workforce competencies that facilitate positive outcomes for children can prevent or ameliorate disability. These outcomes for children may include self help skills, discipline, language development, teen sexual behavior, emotional regulation and other social skills related to adaptations to cultural environments

### **Disability Prevention Issue**

More than three million children are investigated each year for maltreatment. Child maltreatment seriously impairs mental health and disrupts development of children. There are co-occurring problems with mental development such as domestic violence, single parenthood, depression, and need for cash assistance. Exposure to maltreatment can lead to enduring health problems, behavior and learning problems such as depression, anxiety, aggressive behavior, delinquency, posttraumatic stress disorder, criminal behavior and other adverse health effects. The consequences of child maltreatment can result in impaired brain development and learning and disability.

### **Activity**

A letter was written to a forum participant to comment on evidence based practices for parents to prevent maltreatment of children.

**Principle**

Evidence based programs should be conducted to prevent maltreatment of children that can result in disability.