

# Touchstones Life Areas of Child Well-being

Each life area has a set of goals and objectives—representing expectations about the future, and a set of indicators—reflecting the status of children and families. The Touchstones framework provides a holistic approach as it cuts across all health, education and human service sectors.



COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Kids' Well-being Indicators  
Clearinghouse

## Economic Security

### Goals and Objectives

*Children and youth will be raised in families with sufficient economic resources to meet their basic needs.*

- Children will be raised in households with sufficient economic resources to provide food, clothing, shelter and other necessities.
- Children and youth will receive adequate financial support from absent parents.

*Youth will be prepared for their eventual economic self-sufficiency.*

- Youth will have skills, attitudes and competencies to enter college, the work force or other meaningful activities.
- Young adults who can work will have opportunities for employment.
- Youth seeking summer jobs will have employment opportunities.

## Physical and Emotional Health

### Goal and Objectives

*Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.*

- Children and youth will be born healthy.
- Children and youth will be free from preventable disease and injury.
- Children and youth will have nutritious diets.
- Children and youth will be physically fit.
- Children and youth will be emotionally healthy.
- Children and youth will be free from health risk behaviors (e.g., smoking, drinking, substance abuse, unsafe sexual activity).
- Children and youth will have access to timely and appropriate preventive and primary health care.
- Children with special health care needs will experience an optimal quality of life.
- Children and youth with service needs due to mental illness, developmental disabilities and/or substance abuse problems will have access to timely and appropriate services.

## Education

### Goal and Objectives

*Children will leave school prepared to live, learn and work in a community as contributing members of society.*

- Children will come to school ready to learn.
- Students will meet or exceed high standards for academic performance and demonstrate knowledge and skills required for lifelong learning and self-sufficiency in a dynamic world.
- Students will be educated in a safe, supportive, drug free and nurturing environment.
- Students will stay in school until successful completion.

## Civic Engagement

### Goal and Objectives

*Children and youth will demonstrate good citizenship as law-abiding, contributing members of their families, schools and communities.*

- Children and youth will assume personal responsibility for their behavior.
- Youth will demonstrate ethical behavior and civic values.
- Children and youth will understand and respect people who are different from themselves.
- Children and youth will participate in family and community activities.
- Children and youth will have positive peer interactions.
- Children and youth will make constructive use of leisure time.
- Youth will delay becoming parents until adulthood.
- Children and youth will refrain from violence and other illegal behaviors.

## Family

### Goal and Objectives

*Families will provide children with safe, stable and nurturing environments*

- Parent/caregivers will provide children with a stable family relationship.
- Parent/caregivers will possess and practice adequate child rearing skills.
- Parent/caregivers will be literate.
- Parent/caregivers will be positively involved in their children's learning.
- Parent/caregivers will the knowledge and ability to access support services for their children.
- Parent/caregivers will provide their children with households free from physical and emotional abuse.
- Parent/caregivers will provide their children with households free from alcohol and other substance abuse.

## Community

### Goals and Objectives

*New York State communities will provide children, youth and families with healthy, safe and thriving environments.*

- Communities will be economically sound.
  - The environment will be free of pollutants (e.g., air and water quality will meet healthful standards).
  - Neighborhoods will be crime free.
  - Adequate housing will be available.
  - Adequate transportation will be available.
- New York State communities will provide children, youth and their families with opportunities to help them meet their needs for physical, social, moral and emotional growth.*
- Communities will make available and accessible formal and informal services (e.g., child care, parent training, recreation, youth services, libraries, museums, parks).
  - Adults in the community will provide youth with good role models and opportunities for positive adult interactions.
  - Communities will provide opportunities for youth to make positive contributions to community life and to practice skill development.