## Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for

## Early Childhood

A Research-Based Guide



**Chapter 1** 

Why Is Early Childhood Important to Substance Abuse Prevention?



Chapter 2

Risk and Protective Factors



Chapter 3

Intervening in Early Childhood



**Chapter 4** 

Research-Based Early Intervention Substance Abuse Prevention Programs



**Chapter 5** 

Selected Resources



**Appendix 1** 

From Theory To
Outcomes—Designing
Evidence-Based Interventions



**Appendix 2** 

Selecting and Implementing an Intervention













## **Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood**

- Intervening early in childhood can alter the life course trajectory in a positive direction.
- Intervening early in childhood can both increase protective factors and reduce risk factors.
- Intervening early in childhood can have positive long-term effects.
- Intervening in early childhood can have effects on a wide array of behaviors, even behaviors not specifically targeted by the intervention.
- Early childhood interventions can positively affect children's biological functioning.
- Early childhood prevention interventions should target the proximal environments of the child.
- Positively affecting a child's behavior through early intervention can elicit positive behaviors in adult caregivers and in other children, improving the overall social environment.



For more information visit: www.drugabuse.gov/earlychildhood

