Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood
A Research-Based Guide

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Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood

1. Intervening early in childhood can alter the life course trajectory in a positive direction.

2. Intervening early in childhood can both increase protective factors and reduce risk factors.

3. Intervening early in childhood can have positive long-term effects.

4. Intervening in early childhood can have effects on a wide array of behaviors, even behaviors not specifically targeted by the intervention.

5. Early childhood interventions can positively affect children’s biological functioning.

6. Early childhood prevention interventions should target the proximal environments of the child.

7. 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