



## The Importance of Community

While the primary responsibility of raising children is with the parents, the community is an important support for parents. In this diagram you can see the parts of the community that play a role in the development of children. The child is in the center, with the levels of support radiating out. The child will grow and may one day be a parent or caregiver and certainly a neighbor or friend. How the child is cared for by this network of support can predict what kind of member of society they will be. Parents cannot do it alone. If we as a community are invested in supporting each other, children will grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

### FREE LIFE-CHANGING ONLINE PARENTING COURSES

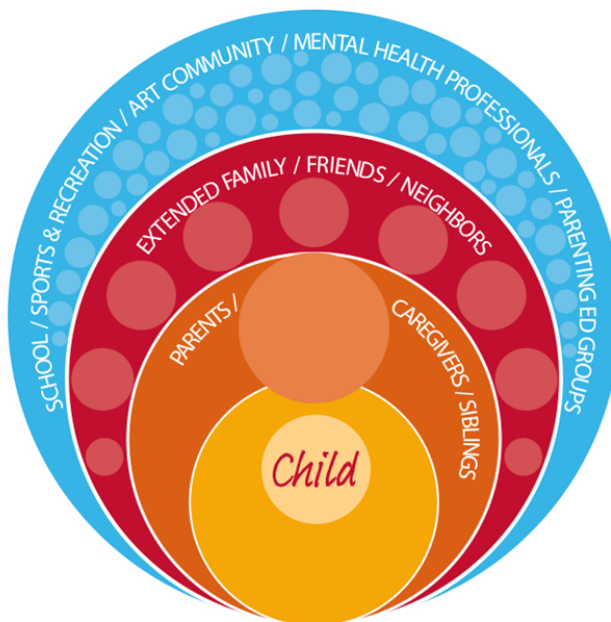
In these video-based, interactive classes—available 24/7—you’ll learn a consistent, encouraging style of parenting that will benefit you and your children for a lifetime. With this self-study course, you have the option of when to participate based on your own schedule and at your convenience. Gain additional insight from your online group leaders as they provide support and feedback.

Choose from four available courses:

- **Active Parenting: First Five Years:**  
For parents of children from birth to age 5
- **Active Parenting 4th ED:**  
For parents of children ages 5 to 12
- **Active Parenting of Teens:**  
For parents of preteens and teens
- **Crossroads of Parenting & Divorce:**  
For divorced and divorcing parents

Continue your experience as an “active” parent by reviewing what you learn in the class in your accompanying parent guide. Each guide contains additional information, activities, and worksheets to help you practice what you learn.

Visit [ACFCcares.com](https://www.acfc.org/activeparenting) for more information and to start your Active Parenting journey today.



Sports, arts, hobbies and recreation are a way for children to be part of a group that shares similar likes and is a great outlet for their energy. A healthy childhood includes exploring interests and working with others. It’s important for children to have the courage to try new things.

Teachers and parents can support each other in their common goal of helping the child to develop and grow. Parents can benefit tremendously with support from a loving spiritual community that reflects their own beliefs. A positive youth group can help children build a sense of self-worth and belonging.

Mental health resources are also an important part of our community. Counselors may be an avenue of support for children showing signs of anxiety or mood disorders, learning disorders, autism or ADHD.

As you can see parents need the help of their community. When children hear similar positive messages from different people in different settings, the message has a better chance of getting through. Take time to discover the support available in your community.

To learn more about effective parenting skills, visit the Active Parenting Online Video Library. These helpful videos are offered free of charge by the ACFC in partnership with Active Parenting. Guidance and help are available for parents of children of all ages. To access the Online Video Library, go to the [ACFC website](https://www.acfc.org/activeparenting), click on the Active Parenting tab, and follow the instructions on how to