



OUR MISSION: JOINING TOGETHER
TO RAISE EVERY CHILD'S COMPLETE WELLBEING



We foster change with and across health, human services, education, and family systems that ensures children's holistic wellbeing and creates more racially and socially just and equitable communities.

Children's Institute bridges gaps and brings new research-based opportunities to support the social-emotional development and holistic wellbeing of infants, children, and youth.

- We work on behalf of children, partnering with their families, schools, human services, health providers, and government agencies.
- We help caring adults rise to challenges in children’s growth in a context of structural inequities, local, national, and global stressors, and rapid changes in community life.
- Together, we lean into what we know – time-tested practices informed by scholarship, research, and data-driven processes adapted culturally - sharing skills & building strong relationships and resilience.
- We help children and adults innovate to move forward with confidence and achieve goals for children’s development - through proven, preventive strategies and centered on social and emotionally-responsive approaches that raise wellbeing both individually and collectively.

Because Kids Can't Wait

Facilitate healthy development of social-emotional life experiences

Innovate with child-centered, culturally responsive, play-based practices

Illuminate with quality & information services for parents & child/youth-focused staff

Improved Social/Emotional Competences & Wellbeing; Reduced Stress & Behavior Problems



Improved Overall Wellness & School Readiness



Increased Parent Confidence & Decreased Child Behavior Issues



Happy, Confident Students Engaged in Classroom Learning



Adults Helping Every Child Reach Their Fullest Potential Across Every Stage of Childhood

Early Childhood Educators (0 to 8 years)

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) consultation for early childhood staff, parents & children, responsive to trauma

Behavioral Supports for Children

Children (12 to 60 months)

Comprehensive health & developmental screening and support for follow-up referral & services

Get Ready To GROW

Parents / Caregivers (2-8 years)

Preventative intervention for parents to clarify values & childrearing goals

Rochester Area Parent Program

Children (4-10 years)

Expressive play for children that resolves school adjustment difficulties

Primary Project

Educators (0-18 years)

Customized, culturally responsive, whole child focused social & emotional learning with educators serving the developmental continuum

Whole Child Connection



COLLABORATE Joining community member strengths to build integrated preventive services in support of healthy child development

FACILITATE

Healthy development of social-emotional life experiences among children and adults

INNOVATE

Child-centered and play-based practices that are culturally responsive and relevant

ILLUMINATE

Information and quality enhancements to support children reaching their full potential

PROGRAM SUPPORT • PARTNERSHIPS • SYSTEM CHANGE • COLLECTIVE IMPACT • EQUITY

- Partnering with parents and adults to expand children's skills and strengths in social & emotional wellbeing
- Consultation and training to advance prevention and promotion-oriented program and system solutions
- Incorporating whole child needs universally, applying principles of equity and anti-racism
- Community check-ins and training to support self-care of adults working with children
- Infant mental health service expansion & alignment in health & human service systems within communities
- Community initiative leadership to integrate parents, schools, childcare centers & health care provider views
- Training to help adults respond to racism's effects on children

EDUCATION • HEALTH • HUMAN SERVICES • CHILD CARE • YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • FAMILIES

- Offerings tailored to the unique needs of schools & other child-centered environments - in-person & virtual
- Programs that bridge the digital divide for pre-K & young families with caring, fun, home-based check-ins
- Work with parents together, strengthening relationships with their children
- Behavioral health consultation, opening up discussions of racism and trauma with adults and children
- In-person & virtual screening to comprehensively assess children's developmental and health needs
- Rich, cross-domain community partnerships leveraging existing service and delivery systems
- Services delivered with cultural humility & capacity-building practices

EVALUATION • RESEARCH • CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT • TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

- Observations and strength-based quality measures that help teachers optimize classroom experiences
- Data integration between school district and child care centers, coordinated with parents and health providers, providing timely checks, referral and follow-up, optimizing opportunities for growth and learning
- Training and support in classroom quality assessment and play-based adjustment for children
- Research, evaluation, publications and continuous improvement processes embedded in real settings
- Community data collection and information development using ethical and secure methods to help families, providers, teachers and communities make decisions and take action
- Practical approaches to help people better visualize & plan systems together to drive and meet specific goals

Example Initiatives at Children's Institute



PRIMARY PROJECT

Identifies young children who show emerging school adjustment difficulties and provides them with one-on-one time with a specially trained and supervised paraprofessional. Adaptations to maintain the quality of this unique program include guidelines for virtual programs, a focus on relationships, and training using a Learning Management System (LMS) and modular videos.

GET READY TO GROW

Our quick, fun developmental checks for ages 12 months to 60 months are aligned with the Help Me Grow national model. Our strength is in our community partners who already have trusted relationships with families. Our navigators assist parents and caregivers with their efforts to support their child's needs. We are strengthening integration with pediatric practice workflows, enhancing parent connections, and scaling to new geographies.

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN

Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH), focuses on family and early childhood education staff wellbeing and stress reduction, improved classroom social-emotional climate and teacher-child relationships, decreased children's behavior problems, and improved social-emotional competence of children and reduced behavioral concerns.

ROCHESTER AREA PARENT PROGRAM (RAPP)

The Rochester Area Parent Program has implemented the EzParent online learning system from our partners - the Chicago Parent Program - to foster virtual parent learning groups, serving an ever-growing number of parents.

WHOLE CHILD CONNECTION

The Whole Child Connection team works to develop affirming, equitable, and relationship-centered learning environments where all adults intentionally foster the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills young people need to thrive. Our approach focuses on the intersection of Social & Emotional Learning (SEL), Restorative Practices, and Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Practices, offering services for professional learning, coaching, and support for data driven decision making. We work with K-12 educators, out-of-school time (OST) programs and early care and education centers across the community. The team also hosts convenings of youth leaders and adults who support them, focused on the transformative power of genuine relationships.

RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Children's Institute's strategic direction is anti-racist. Our Racial and Social Justice webpage has resources on how to talk about racism with children, racism as a public health crisis and anti-racism as a core component of social and emotional learning. Our Family Advisory Council assures that our work is guided by parents and caregivers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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