

All about Childhaven



Who we are: Since 1909, Childhaven has been a safe and nurturing place for children. From our early days as Seattle's first child care service to our position today as a national leader in caring for abused and neglected children, we have consistently served our community's most vulnerable children and families. Today, we heal old hurts and nurture young lives through innovative, proven approaches to child development delivered in a therapeutic day care environment. We also help parents, giving them the skills and support they need to better care for their children and create loving, lasting family bonds.

How we came to be: Our legacy began a century ago when Rev. Mark Matthews of Seattle First Presbyterian Church founded Seattle Day Nursery to care for children while their mothers worked. We operated for nearly 70 years as a traditional child care center before our leadership recognized a grave need: the lack of services for very young victims of abuse and neglect. In 1977, two years before the state of Washington mandated the reporting of child abuse, we created the nation's first therapeutically-based child care program. Today, we serve more than 500 young children each year while helping to stabilize and strengthen families.

What we do: Childhaven not only heals families already hurt by abuse and neglect, we also work to prevent it. In four locations across Seattle and King County, our highly trained and compassionate staff provides therapy, social interaction and emotional support for children one month through 5 years of age (the most critical period of brain development). Our programs include:

- **Therapeutic Child Care** – Children referred to us by child welfare authorities receive developmentally-focused care and treatment in an enriched learning environment with very low child-to-staff ratios.
- **Drug-Affected Infant Program** – Children affected by their parents' substance abuse (including in utero) receive care and treatment while their parents are enrolled in outpatient chemical dependency programs.
- **Crisis Nursery** – Targeted toward preventing abuse before it occurs, we offer temporary, home-based child care for parents who need a brief respite from life's crises and major stresses.
- **Wrap-around services** – Health screenings, two balanced meals a day, door-to-door transportation to and from our branches, monthly home visits and daily home monitoring.
- **Parent education** – Through individual and group support and a new program that uses videotaping and feedback, parents gain skills and confidence to better care for and nurture their children.

Our impact: By focusing on research-based methods of attentive care, developmental therapy and parenting education, Childhaven's approach is proven to forever change lives. By investing in Childhaven today, our community helps to ensure the unlimited potential of children who will go on to become nurturing, loving parents themselves. Childhaven's own research indicates that children who receive therapeutic child care are six times less likely to commit serious and violent crimes as teenagers; they have a greater chance to be successful in school; and their families are more stable and productive. The bottom line: An investment in healing a child today can save lives – and taxpayer dollars – tomorrow.

Where to find us: Broadway Branch (Central Seattle), Eli Creekmore Memorial Branch (Burien area), Lake City Branch (North Seattle) and Patrick L. Gogerty Branch (Auburn).

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