



ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Who We Serve

Our programs serve children and families who have been exposed to severe stress and trauma. Most of these families have faced one or more of the following: domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse issues, criminal justice involvement, housing instability, and poverty.



Young children are deeply affected when their families struggle with stress and trauma. As a result, they can experience any number of emotional and developmental concerns that impact their ability to learn and grow. Without access to services, these children often develop chronic health issues when they become adults.

Therapeutic Early Learning

At the core of our programs is a concept called "therapeutic early learning." Science tells us that we must support cognitive, social, and emotional development simultaneously in order to prepare children for school and for life. We blend early childhood education models and evidence-based therapies to provide care for children with highly individual needs.

Services Offered

We provide access to a wide range of care options. Working in partnership with families, we design individual treatment plans intended to support the very best outcomes for our clients.

Services include:

- **Intensive day program with low teacher-child ratios**
- **Preschool with kindergarten readiness focus**
- **Parent-child therapy**
- **Parenting classes and support**
- **Nursing**
- **Special education**
- **Transportation to and from our facilities**
- **Occupational, speech, and physical therapy**
- **Home visitation**



CHILDHAVEN is a leader in trauma-informed care for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Our science-based, heart-centered programs support positive outcomes for the most vulnerable children and families in our community.

Locations

- Three care centers in Seattle, Burien, and Auburn
- Licensed as child care and mental health facilities

History

Childhaven was founded in 1909 as Seattle Day Nursery, one of the first child care centers for working mothers in the US. The agency began its specialized therapeutic child care program in 1977, and changed its name to Childhaven in 1985.

Leadership

Jon Botten
CEO

Carl Lovsted III
Chair, Board of Trustees



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the primary reasons that children are referred to Childhaven? Who refers them?

Childhaven receives referrals from various child welfare agencies at the state and county levels, as well as substance abuse and economic support programs. Children are referred for a wide range of traumatic events and circumstances. Below are the most prevalent referral reasons for the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- *52% were living with a parent struggling with substance abuse*
- *25% were living with a parent struggling with a mental illness*
- *30% had experienced neglect*
- *18% had experienced domestic violence in their home*

Most children at Childhaven have experienced more than one type of trauma. Furthermore, as of 2017 **97% of our families live beneath the county poverty line** and struggle to access services.

How many of your students are in foster care?

In 2017, about **9% of kids at Childhaven had been removed from their homes and placed in foster care**. Another 17% were living with relatives. The vast majority of children in our programs live with their biological parents.

How is Childhaven's work funded?

In 2017, **35% of Childhaven's budget came from state and county contracts**. The remainder was raised from the community via philanthropy. For a more detailed budget breakdown, see our latest annual report.

What's the average length of stay in Childhaven's programs?

Children and families **stay an average of 18 months** in our therapeutic early learning programs. Many caregivers have told us that we are the most consistent social service in their lives.



How is your staff equipped to help trauma-affected children and families?

Childhaven's programs are staffed with a wide range of professionals, including master's level social workers and therapists, early childhood educators, and early intervention specialists. These staff members serve families as a team, providing individualized care and support.

All Childhaven staff are trained in **trauma-informed care** principles derived from the work of Dr. Bruce Perry. Trauma-informed practice offers solutions to family and individual challenges within the context of personal history—rather than asking "what's wrong with you?" we ask "what has happened to you, and what are you coping with?"