



Developmental Trauma Center



safer, healthier relationships
for children and families

FamilyForward utilizes a comprehensive and respectful approach to understanding child development and the impact of significant childhood trauma. We recognize that each child brings unique biological and genetic traits, relational experiences, and personality characteristics into every interaction with parents and other caregivers.

FORMULATE BETTER INSIGHTS, ACHIEVE BETTER OUTCOMES

The agency's overarching philosophy is based in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT), developed by Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD of the ChildTrauma Academy. NMT is a trauma-informed, developmentally sensitive approach to understanding the impact of a child's history on current functioning. NMT provides the structure to best recognize the presenting behaviors and needs of each child.

Assessment Services

Utilizing NMT, highly trained clinicians complete an assessment of current functioning that helps generate a visual representation of the developmental strengths and vulnerabilities of a child. Based on this assessment, individualized recommendations are offered to support children at home, in school, and with therapeutic interventions.

Treatment Services

Just as child abuse and neglect negatively impacts the developing brain, therapeutic activities can alter the brain creating opportunities for healing, recovery, and the development of healthier functioning. Services include individual, family, and group counseling. In order to match the appropriate therapeutic interventions with each child's needs, FamilyForward's clinical team is trained in a wide variety of evidence-based practices.

Parent Education Services

Classes are specifically designed to address emotional, behavioral, and relational difficulties caused by early trauma in an honest environment that supports and encourages. The focus is not on controlling behaviors, but partnering with parents to understand their children and help improve the quality of their family life.

Eligibility and Consultation

- Children ages 0 to 18 with histories of chronic abuse or neglect early in life (before age eight), especially those who have not benefited from other more traditional therapies.
- Children in foster care or who have been adopted through the child welfare system.
- Children who experienced institutional care during infancy and early childhood (often adopted from other countries).
- FamilyForward is site certified in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) by the ChildTrauma Academy. Developmental Trauma Center clinicians are available to consult with family members, teachers, therapists, and other professionals to determine the appropriate timing, sequencing, and service delivery method for treatment. The assessment clinician will remain available for ongoing consultation and interpretation as the child's caregiving team begins to work with the assessment results and recommendations.

GETTING STARTED

Call **314.968.2350** and ask for Intake or email intake.dept@familyforwardmo.org to learn more about FamilyForward's Developmental Trauma Center.



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familyforwardmo.org



OUR MISSION: FamilyForward moves vulnerable children in the direction of hope by delivering comprehensive therapeutic and educational services to support biological, foster, and adoptive families.

