

## Does Project Connect Work?

Yes. Substance abuse by parents is often a significant factor in the risk of child abuse or neglect. An independent evaluation determined that over the past 4 years, 86% of infants were born free of illicit substances while mothers were involved with Project Connect.

Additionally, 70 % of children in the home at the time of intake remained in the home and 58% of children out of home at time of intake were safely reunified. Of families who did not participate, only 18% of children were reunited after 10 months.

The evaluation continues to indicate high levels of client satisfaction and a significant rate of improved commitment to recovery for those completing Project Connect services.

## Mission

The mission of Children's Friend is to promote the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children by providing flexible, effective and culturally relevant services that support and strengthen families and communities.

# Project Connect at Children's Friend



children's  
FRIEND

153 Summer Street  
Providence, RI  
02903



# encourage me

"We as addicts need to be taught more than just staying clean. We need to learn a new way of life for us and our children. We need to be educated...we need powerful resources like Project Connect to help us."- Project Connect client

childrensfriendri.org



## What is Project Connect?

Project Connect is the only program in the state that works with the Department of Children, Youth and Families to keep children safe and strengthen families by helping parents achieve a substance-free lifestyle.

## What services do families receive?

- Intensive, home-based clinical and case management services
- Substance abuse assessment/monitoring
- Relapse prevention
- Family assessment and counseling
- Assistance with transportation
- Court advocacy

## Families are also linked with community resources including:

- Substance abuse treatment agencies
- Child care
- Health care
- Housing
- Education
- Mental health
- Legal services

## What are the unique components of Project Connect?

### Parenting Education

Families can participate in a unique three month home program that incorporates a 12-step recovery model with a parenting curriculum.

### Nursing Services

Pregnant women and families with children under age three receive weekly visits from a pediatric nurse who monitors health, safety and early childhood development.

### Case Conferencing

Project Connect convenes multidisciplinary case conferences for families in the program. These conferences occur regularly and are designed to enhance collaboration among service providers and family members.

### Recreation

Project Connect encourages healthy family interactions by providing access to recreational opportunities such as the zoo, Children's Museum, lunches, and special events.

### Groups

Project Connect offers specialized support groups. Families choose to participate in the following groups: Women in Sobriety, Men in Sobriety, Nurturing for Parents in Recovery, Fostering Healthy Relationships, and infant/toddler play groups.

## After Care Services

Graduates of Project Connect are always welcome to call for support and referrals and participate in any recreation, special event or ongoing support groups.

## Who is eligible? Families must:

- Be legally involved with DCYF
- Have an identified substance abuse problem
- Either have children in the home, or reunification must be a goal
- Live in Rhode Island
- Have children any age, but Project Connect prioritizes high risk infant cases

## Who can make a referral?

DCYF caseworkers, substance abuse treatment providers, or parents themselves can call the Project Connect Manager at 401-721-9200.