



# Relief Nursery™

## Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

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*Strengthening Families and Keeping Children Safe for 40 Years*

What is a Relief Nursery?

- A nationally recognized model proven to strengthen high-risk families and keep vulnerable children safe and healthy
- A non-profit program with a mission to prevent the cycle of child abuse and neglect by providing therapeutic early childhood services and comprehensive family support
- A unique private/public venture with leadership from local businesses and other community partners

What are Relief Nursery services?

*A combination of services makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts:*

- Alcohol and drug recovery support
- Counseling for children, parents, and families
- Crisis response for families in urgent need
- Early childhood therapeutic classrooms
- Home visits
- Mental health screening and assessment
- Outreach for isolated families
- Parent respite, education, and support
- Special education services
- Transportation and basic needs assistance

Does the Relief Nursery work?

- **Child abuse reports:** 48% of families coming into the Relief Nursery have a history with Child Protective Services. After one year at the Relief Nursery, fewer than 5% of all families served receive any reports of abuse or neglect.
- **Foster care:** 95% of children attending the Nursery require **no** foster care.
- **Healthy development:** 90% of the children attending the Relief Nursery are at age-appropriate levels; 10% receive special education services on site.
- **Clean and sober life style:** 85% of parents with a history of substance abuse who participate in the Relief Nursery Alcohol and Drug Recovery Support Program are still clean and sober 17 months after treatment.

Is the Relief Nursery model replicable?

- The Relief Nursery has been replicated successfully in 14 Oregon communities; there are nearly 30 when we include satellite nurseries!
- A 2005 independent study confirmed that Relief Nursery replication programs have the same positive outcomes as the original model.
- Relief Nursery staff members provide the training, consultation, and evaluation necessary to ensure model fidelity and strong outcomes at each new site.
- The *Relief Nursery Center for National Replication* was created in 2006.

Is a Relief Nursery a sound investment?

- A Relief Nursery is a sound investment in the future of children, communities, and the nation. Preventing child abuse reduces future needs and major expenses for mental health, special education, social welfare, substance abuse, and prisons.
- To avoid costly duplication of services, the Relief Nursery works closely with many community agencies, such as Child Protective Services, domestic violence programs, Head Start, and law enforcement.

How has the Relief Nursery been recognized?

- The Relief Nursery was one of six original national crisis nursery demonstration projects for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The U.S. Office of Child Abuse and Neglect designated the Relief Nursery an *Innovative Program of Noteworthy Aspects*. (2004)
- Robin Karr-Morse and Meredith S. Wiley highlighted the Relief Nursery as a successful program for providing skill training for parents of high-risk preschoolers in their book, **Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence**. (1997)
- The Relief Nursery was listed one of five *Oregon Programs Proven to Work* in a cost-effectiveness study by the Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Citizens Crime Commission.
- Ed Whitelaw, professor of economics at the University of Oregon, compared the direct *and* indirect costs of providing Relief Nursery services to an entire family (\$3,000) to the direct costs of imprisoning an adult (\$20,000 per year).
- The Relief Nursery Alcohol and Drug Recovery Support Program was selected and funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) as one of eight national programs to be replicated. (2004)
- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) is working on a bill modeled after the Relief Nursery. It's called the Family First Prevention Services Act. It passed in the House of Representatives on June 21, 2016.

***For additional information, contact:***

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