

THE KEMPE UNDER SIXES PROGRAM

Giving a voice to the quietest victims of abuse and neglect.

Why CARE:

Every year, nearly one million children are abused or neglected in the U.S., over 9,000 children in Colorado alone. Those are just the victims we know about. These children have no voice unless we identify them, and get them the care they need before it is too late.

Why KEMPE:

Our unique Under Sixes Program creates a system of mental health services for abused and neglected infants, toddlers and preschoolers. By helping them at a very young age, we are turning lives around and creating successful futures.

THE KEMPE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



Renowned experts.
Remarkable compassion.
Real hope.

THROUGH COLLABORATION AND COMPASSION,

this program offers just the right
care to infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



Nearly 50% of all abused and neglected children in the United States are under six years of age.

The Kempe Under Sixes Program provides access to mental health services for the youngest abused and neglected children. This program builds on our collaboration with the Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS), and provides home-based mental health interventions for very young children. These children are referred by DDHS and typically have experienced trauma, neglect and/or abuse which they are unable to cope with. DDHS and the Kempe mental health clinicians in this program have developed a unique and innovative partnership on behalf of these vulnerable children to insure that prompt and effective help is given to the child and the child's parents or foster parents.

We are there for the children when their life takes the toughest turns.

When children must be moved to other homes, regardless of the reasons, Kempe clinicians meet with the families involved. We assess the children's developmental status and their history of loss and separation. Together with caseworkers, we tailor a gradual move the children can manage emotionally – continually monitoring the process and supporting family members with their feelings of loss, grief, guilt and anxiety.

These children need a safe place to heal and grow.

The Kempe Under Sixes Program goals include preserving safe placements for children, preventing placement changes where possible, and minimizing the negative impact of transitions on young children when they have to be moved to a new home. We work directly and sensitively on relationships between caregivers and children, and carefully design and support transitions from one home to another for foster children. This specialized transition service works to:

- improve the social/emotional development of the children under six;
- reduce risk factors for future behavioral problems, learning problems, and mental illness for children in the child welfare system;
- support a core of child welfare caseworkers best qualified to help these children.

We share what we learn so that more children can share in our hope.

At Kempe, we continue to build an extensive database to track our services and the progress and successes of our program participants. We take our findings and share them with other professionals so that we can help large numbers of children in Colorado and serve as a model program nationally.

To find out more about this program and our other Kempe programs, please visit Kempe.org

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1825 Marion St. • Denver, CO 80218 • 303-864-5300