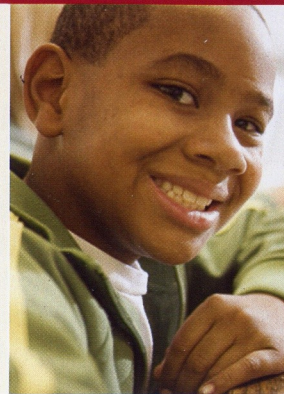





Want to make a referral?

Contact the
New Directions
coordinator at:
(405) 271-8858
or go to:
<http://oumedicine.com/newdirections>



 **Medicine**

**CENTER ON CHILD
ABUSE AND NEGLECT**


**SECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL &
BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS**

940 N.E. 13th Street, 3B3406
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-5008

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New Directions Program
for Children in Foster Care

 **Medicine**

**CENTER ON CHILD
ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Alcohol and drug abuse hurts
everyone in the family...

Many Children Suffer the Effects of Parental Substance Abuse

Approximately one in four children in the United States is exposed to family alcohol or drug abuse. In Oklahoma, approximately half of all families involved with child welfare have parental substance abuse as the primary or secondary reason for referral.

Parental substance abuse can create a dangerous and unpredictable home life, including poverty, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, criminal justice involvement and out-of-home placements for children.

Studies have found that children living in homes with parental substance abuse are at higher risk for:

- Developmental delays
- Behavioral disorders
- Poor school performance
- Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress symptoms, eating disorders and low self-esteem
- Early risk-taking behaviors, including substance use
- Poor interpersonal relationships
- Suicide

The OUHSC New Directions Program Can Help

Created and conducted through the OUHSC – Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, the New Directions Research Study is designed to help children in foster care overcome the effects of parental substance abuse.

Who Is Eligible?

New Directions is available for children between the ages of 3 and 12 who are in foster care due, in part, to parental substance abuse and are residents of Oklahoma County or surrounding areas.

Program Objectives

New Directions works to improve child functioning and enhance foster placement stability by:

- Teaching safe and healthy coping
- Stabilizing mood and increasing self-esteem
- Reducing acting-out behaviors
- Reducing trauma symptoms
- Teaching foster parents additional ways to manage challenging child behaviors
- Assisting in the child's transition from foster care to the biological parent(s), when applicable.

OUHSC New Directions Program Services

Services available at no cost through the New Directions Program include:

- Developmental screenings for preschool children
- IQ/cognitive screenings for school-age children
- Mental health assessments
- A 12-week group program to help children cope with parental substance abuse and function better in their current placement
- Education, linkage to resources and advocacy for foster parents
- Parent-child reunification support sessions, when needed
- Individual therapy services, when needed

Program Incentives

- Free babysitting and light family meals during group sessions
- Retail gift cards to compensate children and foster parents for completing program assessments
- Up to 18 hours of continuing education credits for foster parents
- Limited OKDHS mileage reimbursement for families driving over 25 miles round trip

All New Directions services are offered at no cost to participants.

Referrals are accepted from all sources


including child welfare professionals, foster and biological parents, and others.

For more information about New Directions or to make a referral, please contact the New Directions Program coordinator at: **(405) 271-8858.**

Susan R. Schmidt, Ph.D.

New Directions Program Director

Additional program details and a downloadable referral form are located on the New Directions website: **<http://oumedicine.com/newdirections>**



**By working together,
we can help children
overcome the effects of
parental substance abuse.**