

Washburn Center in Minneapolis serves children of all ages. For young children we have three specific programs: infant services which are home based; family focus which provides family support and developmental stimulation for at risk young children; and day treatment for children 3 to 3rd grade.

DEVELOPMENTAL REPAIR provides our logic model. When young children are already struggling in the community they need active help to regain developmental momentum. We identified deficits in self regulation as the core concern. Without reliable self regulation of both emotions and behaviors, children often can't learn or participate with peers or benefit from positive social experiences such as day care or school.

To understand these difficulties, we looked to normal development: how do most children learn self regulation? And how does reliable care and regulating help contribute to emerging self awareness and other capacities that children need to grow and thrive?

In this way, DEVELOPMENTAL REPAIR is model that serves young children and children who missed out on critical learning when they young. It is both a specific intervention and an attitude or state of mind for adults who help children shift from maladaptive and destructive behaviors to ways of managing distress and adversity that work better. We rely on resilience principles to move children towards wellbeing, even in the face of continuing risks. Parents and caregivers are active partners in this effort when they are able, but many families struggle with similar difficulties. While family is central, DR focuses on repairing child functioning. When children can succeed in school and in the community, their success often decreases family stress as well. When children can actively engage in learning then they have ways to overcome difficult life challenges.

At Washburn, DR is a half day program. We actively partner with schools and other community agencies to build protective experiences for children who have already had many stressors. The Washburn Training Institute provides consultation and training for clinicians, schools and agencies interested in this work. For more information contact Lauren Nietz at LNietz@washburn.org



Developmental Repair  
An intervention manual  
[www.washburn.org](http://www.washburn.org)

