



Connecticut Dental Health Partnership PROVIDER PARTNER NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays to all of the partners of the CTDHP. Thank you all for making this program a huge success! We look forward to continuing to great things together as we move through the new year!

Provider Survey!

The CTDHP will begin conducting its annual survey in January. We have a new approach this year and will be contacting a portion of the network each month. It is important to complete this survey for many reasons. The survey improves the call center's ability to best align clients with offices that best meet their needs. The survey also allows us to keep up to date on your office hours and services that you provide.

Birthday Rule

When a client turns 21 mid-year the client's office visits and cleaning benefits start fresh! If a client turns 21 on January 15th, they will be benefitted for one cleaning for the remainder of the year.



Conversely if a client turns 21 on December 15th and they have already been benefitted for 2 cleanings a third one will be paid for if performed by the end of the year.

If you have any questions feel free to call **1-855-CT-Dental** with questions.

About Us

The State of Connecticut's publicly funded dental care programs, HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C and HUSKY D now have been combined into one dental plan: the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership- the Dental Plan for HUSKY Health (CTDHP). CTDHP oversees the dental plan for the Department of Social Services (DSS) HUSKY Health program which covers more than 800,000 residents in Connecticut.

CTDHP Website

The Connecticut Dental Health Partnership, the Dental Plan for HUSKY Health has a useful and informative website. Please go to www.ctdhp.com to access provider resources, to upload prior authorizations, verify client history, download educational materials and much more!



CTDHP Adds OrthoCAD To Its List of Acceptable Digital Models

In an effort to simplify the orthodontic Prior Authorization process, the CTDHP has added OrthoCAD to its list of acceptable digital model formats. At this time, we currently accept digital study models produced using Emodel from Geodigm Corporation, Orthoselect 3D Digital Study Models and the OrthoCAD digital format produced using the iTero scanner.

The advantages to using our newly designed system include:

- Decreased review time of cases.
- Reduced handling of models.
- Eliminates breakage of models in delivery.
- Reduces shipping costs.
- Eliminates storage space requirements.

If you have any questions please call Norma Liistro @ 860-507-2319.

Coffee & Concerns



Coffee makes everything better! Come out and visit the CTDHP.

One Friday morning every month Michael Massarelli and the Provider Management Team will be available in person to share a cup of coffee and discuss your concerns.

We will be available between the hours of 8 am and 10 am. Come by and visit even if it is just to say hello! We are located at 195 Scott Swamp Road in Farmington CT. Please call Sue Wydra @ 860-507-2307 to reserve a spot as we are limited to 20 people per month.

Attention Prior Authorization Requests:

Please DO NOT submit Prior Authorizations (PA) on paper after submitting them through the CTDHP website. Please submit the PA's on either paper or through the web site one time. When dental office's submit them both ways it adds to work load and slows down the processing time. If you have a question about a PA please call **1-888-445-6665** for assistance.

Stress & Early Brain Growth

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACEs are significant childhood traumas as identified below which can result in actual changes in brain development. These changes may affect a child's learning ability, social skills, and can result in long-term health problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) views ACEs as one of the major health issues in the 21st century.

A new report in the journal of Community Dentistry Oral and Epidemiology has given strong evidence supporting claims that socioeconomic factors factor in the oral health of children, labeling them a 'toxic stress' on dental health. The research found that children who were exposed to negative experiences, were more than twice as likely to

develop gum disease and tooth decay, as well as suffer from other conditions such as missing teeth or toothache.

The following illustrated handout was created by the Community & Family Services of Spokane, WA who are dedicated to educating social and medical providers of the ACEs concept.

The Connecticut Dental Health partnership's mission is to improve the oral health of our clients by quality focused collaboration with our provider, community and government partners. If you have any questions regarding this project please email Leigh-Lynn Vitukinas, RDH, MSDH – Outreach Coordinator at leigh.vitukinas@ctdhp.com.

STRESS & EARLY BRAIN GROWTH

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

What are ACEs?

ACEs are serious childhood traumas -- a list is shown below -- that result in toxic stress that can harm a child's brain. This toxic stress may prevent child from learning, from playing in a healthy way with other children, and can result in long-term health problems.

Adverse Childhood Experiences can include:

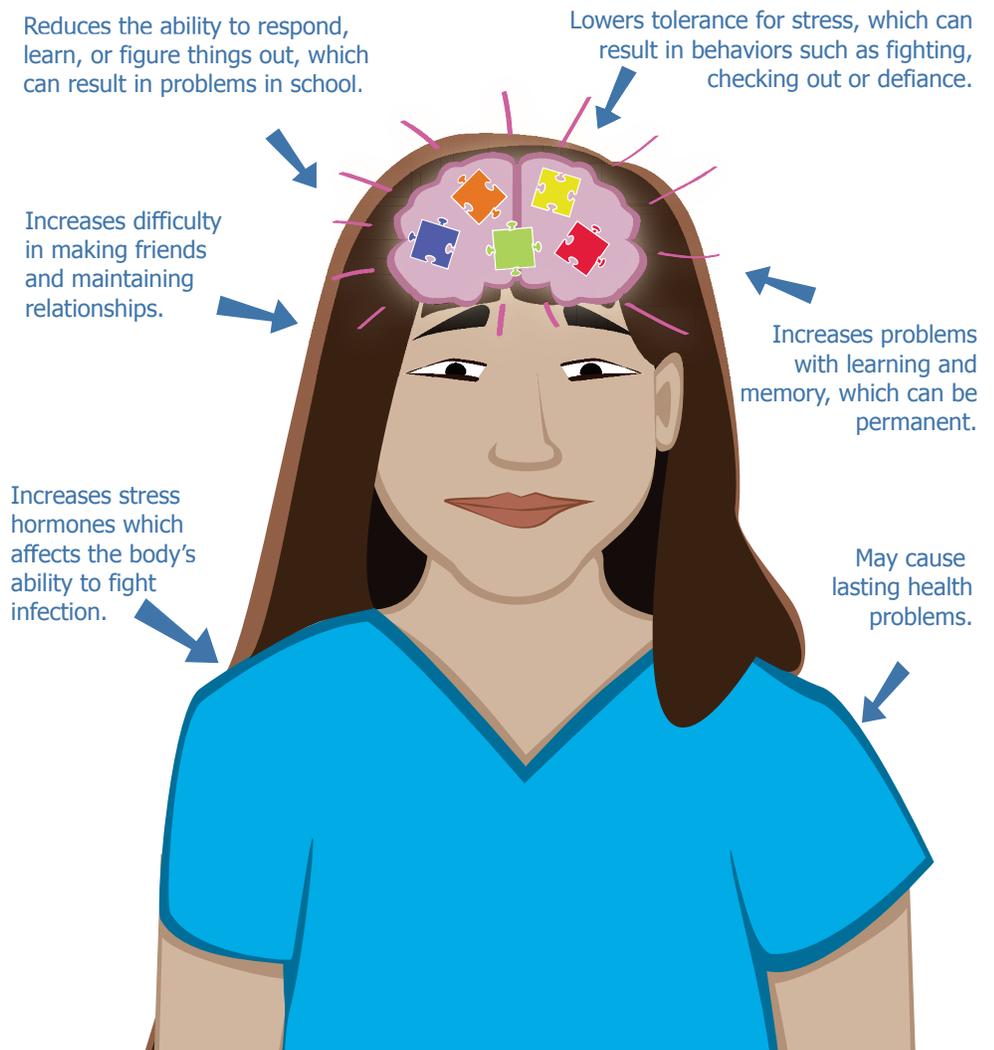
1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Emotional neglect
5. Physical neglect
6. Mother treated violently
7. Household substance abuse
8. Household mental illness
9. Parental separation or divorce
10. Incarcerated household member
11. Bullying (by another child or adult)
12. Witnessing violence outside the home
13. Witness a brother or sister being abused
14. Racism, sexism, or any other form of discrimination
15. Being homeless
16. Natural disasters and war

Exposure to childhood ACEs can increase the risk of:

- Adolescent pregnancy
- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Depression
- Illicit drug use
- Heart disease
- Liver disease
- Multiple sexual partners
- Intimate partner violence
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies

How do ACEs affect health?

Through stress. Frequent or prolonged exposure to ACEs can create toxic stress which can damage the developing brain of a child and affect overall health.



A Survival Mode Response to toxic stress increases a child's heart rate, blood pressure, breathing and muscle tension. Their thinking brain is knocked off-line. Self-protection is their priority. In other words:
"I can't hear you! I can't respond to you! I am just trying to be safe!"

The good news is resilience can bring back health and hope!



What is Resilience?

Resilience is the ability to return to being healthy and hopeful after bad things happen. Research shows that if parents provide a safe environment for their children and teach them how to be resilient, that helps reduce the effects of ACEs.

Resilience trumps ACEs!

Parents, teachers and caregivers can help children by:

- Gaining an understanding of ACEs
- Helping children identify feelings and manage emotions
- Creating safe physical and emotional environments at home, in school, and in neighborhoods

What does resilience look like?

1. Having resilient parents

Parents who know how to solve problems, who have healthy relationships with other adults, and who build healthy relationships with their children.

2. Building attachment and nurturing relationships

Adults who listen and respond patiently to a child in a supportive way, and pay attention to a child's physical and emotional needs.

3. Building social connections

Having family, friends and/or neighbors who support, help and listen to children.

4. Meeting basic needs

Providing children with safe housing, nutritious food, appropriate clothing, and access to health care and good education.

5. Learning about parenting and how children grow

Understanding how parents can help their children grow in a healthy way, and what to expect from children as they grow.

6. Building social and emotional skills

Helping children interact in a healthy way with others, manage their emotions and communicate their feelings and needs.

Resources:

ACES 101

<http://acestoohigh.com/aces-101/>

Triple-P Parenting

www.triplep-parenting.net/glo-en/home/

Resilience Trumps ACEs

www.resiliencetrumpsACEs.com

CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/

Zero to Three Guides for Parents

<http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/areas-of-expertise/free-parent-brochures-and-guides/>