



Children's Service Society of Wisconsin™

A member of Children's Hospital and Health System.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin is a private, not-for-profit agency serving children and families in Wisconsin since 1889. The mission of Children's Service Society is to build, sustain and enhance a nurturing environment for Wisconsin children.

Our agency:

The mission of Children's Service Society is to build, sustain and enhance a nurturing environment for Wisconsin children. To ensure this goal, Children's Service Society is committed to creating quality programs and services for children, youth and their families without regard to race, religion, sex or economic circumstances. In addition to respite care, the statewide Children's Service Society offices offer child and family counseling, adoption, family resource centers, foster care and other support and education groups.

For more information on Children's Service Society's Respite Care Program in Milwaukee, or to make a referral, call (414) 453-1400 or (800) 653 2779.



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Children's Service Society of Wisconsin
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OUT OF HOME CARE Respite Care

Respite Care

What is respite care?

Respite care is temporary child care so parents or foster parents can have a needed break from the stress of caring for a child or adolescent, or for other reasons that help sustain the family structure. Respite care is provided in the home of the respite provider.

Benefits of respite care

Respite care has been proven to reduce family stress and isolation, enhance family coping skills, increase feelings of well-being, support family stability, prevent abuse and neglect, and minimize the need for initial or further out-of-home placements. Respite care also has proven to be cost effective when it is able to prevent initial and continued out-of-home care placements.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin's Respite Care Program

Children's Service Society has been providing foster care for more than 40 years and currently contracts with 46 Wisconsin counties for children's foster care placement. Children's Service Society's Respite Care Program was developed to provide for the increasing number of children who need short-term placement.

Children's Service Society's Respite Care Providers

At Children's Service Society, respite care providers are licensed under Wisconsin Administrative Codes HFS 56, Foster Care and/or, HFS 38, Treatment Foster Care.

Respite providers will be trained to meet the child's specific medical, emotional or behavioral needs. When multiple respite stays are needed, Children's Service Society matches the child with the same respite provider when at all possible, to create ongoing relationships between the respite providers and the children and their families.

Most importantly, Children's Service Society's respite care families provide the basic needs, structure, supervision and nurturing of a child.



Referral Process

Accessing respite care is a simple process. When you call with a referral request, you will be asked to complete a referral form with specific information about the child. A Children's Service Society case worker will then make a placement and coordinate all respite care services. The placement will be monitored by the case worker and a written report will be provided to the referring agency upon completion of the respite service.

Types of respite care children

Children ages birth to 18 are referred to Children's Service Society via numerous referral sources. These children come into respite care from various circumstances and often have special needs. Children are in care for one day to several weeks depending on the situation. The two main types of respite care are:

- Planned respite to give the caretaker a scheduled break (vacation, weekly/monthly breaks).
- Emergency respite to intervene in a family crisis.



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