




Nurturing  
Relationships for  
Children to Thrive

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CHERISH™

children encouraged by relationships in secure homes

## what we do

CHERISH™ is an early childhood relational health model for supporting children and families involved with the child welfare system. Through CHERISH, we nurture relationships, address impacts of family separation, and aim to decrease the number of unnecessary moves in a child's life. CHERISH prioritizes a child's relationships within a community context, by encouraging connections with parents, out-of-home caregivers, and the professionals that work with them. Supports are individualized for each child and are based on their parent and/or out-of-home caregiver's priorities. Supports include listening to concerns, collaborating on possible outcomes, regulating activities – such as play, and CHERISH providers engaging regularly with community partners, parents with lived experience, and other professionals (DCYF social worker, CASA/GAL, childcare provider, etc).

## our story

In 2004, Kindering's clinical social work team developed the CHERISH model as a way to provide specialized relational support for children ages 0-3 involved in the child welfare system. Through replication, this model is now offered by teams of Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) providers for children ages 0-3 in multiple counties around Washington State. Over 500 eligible children are now served by CHERISH each year. Since 2018, the CHERISH program at Kindering has extended support to children ages 3-5 throughout King County.

## who can help you

Children 0-3 years: With specialized training and ongoing support from Kindering's CHERISH program, CHERISH teams work with families to create a plan that supports their child's development while navigating the child welfare system. CHERISH teams can provide a variety of supports, including:

- Speech and motor therapies
- Early childhood education
- Therapeutic tools to promote social-emotional development
- Family Resource Coordination (FRCs)

ESIT agencies with CHERISH teams:

- Island & San Juan Counties - Steps (formerly Toddler Learning Center)
- King County
  - Birth to Three
  - Boyer Children's Clinic
  - Children's Therapy Center
  - Encompass
  - Kindering
  - Northwest Center
  - Wonderland Child & Family Services
- Kitsap County - Holly Ridge Center
- Thurston & Mason Counties - South Sound Parent to Parent
- Whatcom County
  - Opportunity Council
  - Whatcom Center for Early Learning

Children 3-5 years: CHERISH 3-5 providers are licensed mental health therapists who specialize in supporting families who have experienced relational trauma and visit regularly with families throughout King County.

## Contact Us

Anyone, including parents and caregivers, can refer a child under 5 years of age for support from a CHERISH provider!

Contact the CHERISH program by email ([cherish@kindering.org](mailto:cherish@kindering.org)), phone (425-553-4321) or visit us online at [www.cherish.kindering.org](http://www.cherish.kindering.org) to learn more about the CHERISH program.

