Mission

Family Connects International is committed to improving the health and well-being of children and families by bringing evidence-based solutions to every community, undertaking innovative research and evaluation, and engaging in public policy.

www.familyconnects.org

Connecting every child to a healthy future

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About

The Family Connects model (first known as Durham Connects) was developed as a partnership between Duke University, Durham County government and the Center for Child and Family Health. Studies have shown the model to yield impressive results, including fewer ER visits, reduced maternal anxiety and depression, and fewer incidents of child maltreatment. To expand the reach of this work beyond Durham county, Duke University created Family Connects International (FCI) in 2017.

The Family Connects model is available free-of-charge to every family with a newborn in participating communities. Nurses visit families in their homes to assess the health of mother and infant and provide comprehensive connections to community resources that support the long-term well-being of the entire family.

By reaching all families, Family Connects improves health at the population level.

How we work

FCI partners with local and state governments, health-care systems, and nonprofits to plan and implement the Family Connects model, providing full support for successful implementation.

In the early weeks after the birth of a baby, FCI-trained registered nurses in the community provide health check-ups and comprehensive assessments. Nurses are trained in ways to build trust, offer supportive guidance, and navigate difficult situations. FCI provides the assessments, screening tools, and a robust data system that nurses use to link families to the specific community services they need. Some of these include connections to a medical home, mental-health services, child care, WIC, affordable housing, lactation support, parenting groups, and longer-term home visiting programs.

FCI trains and supports local and state leaders who have responsibility for implementing the model. We help them to plan effectively for family and community impact, maintain model fidelity, and ensure fiscal sustainability.

In addition, FCI engages with policymakers to inform them of the positive impacts of Family Connects on families, communities, and the health-care system, including cost savings.

Being housed within Duke University means a commitment to ongoing research and rigorous evaluation for continuous quality improvement, innovation of the model, and advancements in the field of early childhood health and development at the population level.

Interested in learning more about Family Connects? Contact us!
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