



Whole Child's Philosophy

Whole Child is not another program, but a philosophy that uses strategic planning, web-based technology, performance measurement and broad-based community engagement to build communities where ***everyone works together to make sure children thrive.***

Individually, many agencies and organizations serve one dimension of children's well-being, from immunizations to educational programs. Embracing the idea that we must nurture the Whole Child requires the entire community working together. A child who is fully immunized but spends the day without stimulating educational experiences will not realize his full potential. Similarly, a child who has quality child care, but an unsafe home environment may never become all she could be. Ultimately, our community needs to fully nurture the treasure that is our children.

At Whole Child, we view services and programs as a continuum of care, not as isolated services. It's this holistic approach to addressing care that makes all the difference in achieving positive outcomes.

The Whole Child philosophy is grounded in the notion that communities must address all six dimensions of children's well being to raise healthy children:

- Physical and Mental Health
- Quality Education
- Social-Emotional Development
- Spiritual Foundation and Strength
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Economic Stability



"A Whole Child" is one who:

- Attains physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being
- Experiences strong, positive family attachment
- Interacts constructively in a social context
- Has a sense of hope
- Lives in an environment that encourages him/her to succeed

"A Whole Child Community" believes:

- All children should have the opportunity to grow to be healthy, contributing members of society
- Parents have primary responsibility for raising their children
- The community is a partner with parents in this endeavor
- The community must pay attention to all dimensions of a child's and its parents' well-being

History of Whole Child

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles recognized that successfully nurturing the state's children required a dramatically new approach. No single strategy was the answer, he believed. No single person, business or organization could meet the challenge.

The Whole Child concept presents the opportunity to provide a preventative, holistic approach - one that considers the history of the parents, the physical home environment and the social, spiritual and cultural connections that help sustain and support the family.

Preparing children for successful lives takes a unified, coordinated, community-wide effort. That's the continuing belief of the Lawton Chiles Foundation, which began an initiative known as "**Whole Child Florida**". Since 2000, the foundation has worked to unite communities around the goal of providing for children. The Whole Child Project has had positive results and outcomes in three pilot counties including Manatee, Martin and Leon. Whole Child Florida is taking this vision, philosophy and strategic framework across Florida to engage the statewide community around common goals related to children. And now, Whole Child has come to Indian River County!

About Whole Child Indian River

Whole Child Indian River is a community wide effort, lead by the Junior League of Indian River, to get our children off to the best start in life by ensuring they have everything they need to thrive. Families with young children often need help: some lack education, information or economic stability, or they may not know where to go for help. Working families often struggle due to a lack of time, information or adequate child care. Other families are strained by the many demands of caring for young children or dealing with a child with special physical or emotional needs.

We cannot leave it to government or human service agencies alone to meet the needs of families. Whole Child Indian River seeks to engage the entire community in a commitment to our youngest residents because we recognize their future – and ours – hinges on ensuring the best start for every child.

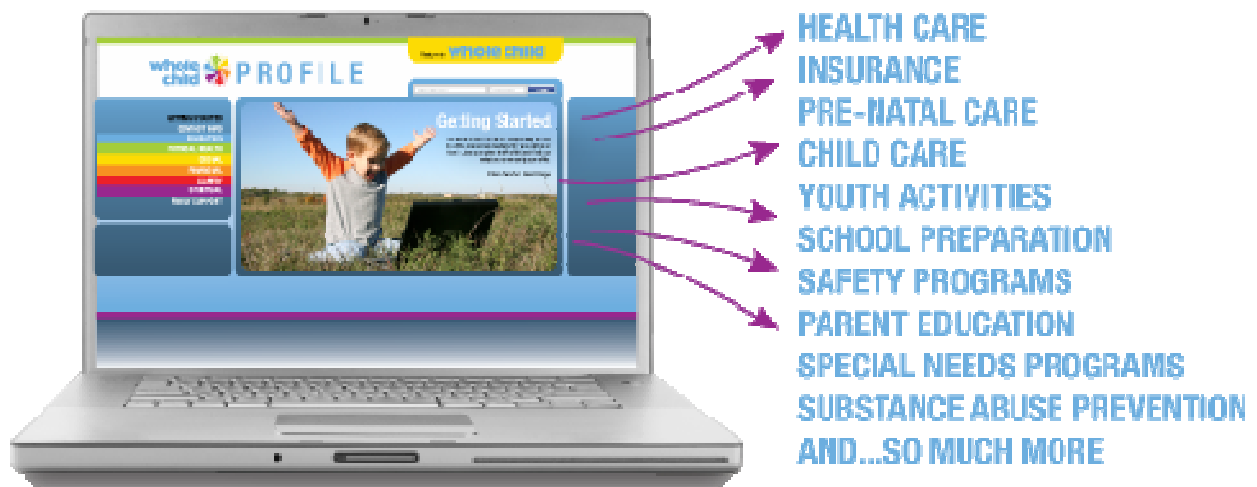
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How Whole Child Connection Works

Regardless of a family's needs, the Whole Child Connection can point them in all the right directions. All children are different, and finding local services for them can take lots of time and effort. The Whole Child Connection (WCC) makes it easier for families by putting it all in ONE PLACE. It's free, easy, convenient and completely confidential.

The Whole Child Connection is a simple way to link children and families to our community's resources.



1. Families answer some simple questions about their family. This becomes their Whole Child Profile.
2. Based on their answers, the WCC system then matches the family with every service or resource they might need. The services are then put into the family's Whole Child Profile.
3. With the family's permission, the providers indicated in the Whole Child Profile will contact the family to assist them in getting the services they need.

Through Whole Child families can easily identify what their needs are and be matched with providers.

The Whole Child Connection respects the need for confidentiality regarding the personal information entered in the Whole Child Profile. **All of the information in this profile is confidential and will only be shared with the client's permission with those he/she designates.** Unauthorized users will not have access to any of the data.

Whole Child Indian River is building a community where everyone works together to make sure children thrive!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does it cost anything to use Whole Child? Does it cost anything to create a personal plan?

A: No. There is absolutely no charge to use Whole Child.

Q: Is Whole Child just for low-income families? Are there any income requirements?

A: None at all. Anyone may use Whole Child.

Q: I don't have any children. Is Whole Child for me?

A: Yes! We recognize that it's not just immediate family members who nurture a child, who help him or her to grow up healthy and successful. It can be another relative, or a teacher, or a friend -- or whoever has an impact on a child's life.

Q: I don't have a computer. Or I don't know how to use one. How can I take advantage of Whole Child?

A: We're creating a network to help you. Computers are available at our public libraries and several community centers. We are also setting up Mobile Connection Corners where we will come to areas near you and walk you through the process of filling out a Whole Child Profile. Call us at 772-563-9287 and we will provide assistance in filling out a profile.

Q: I'm uncomfortable sharing personal information. Do I have to fill out the profile in order to use Whole Child?

A: No, you don't. All we require is your ZIP code, so we can match you with services and resources closest to you. But, be aware that creating a profile for your family is a big benefit. By answering the profile questions, you give us a better idea of what your family needs, so our database can match you with services you might not even be aware of. And the profile gives you a plan, a way to follow your progress. It's a document you can update and adjust as your circumstances change.

Q: What does this profile look like? Is it complicated?

A: Not at all. It's simple, yes-or-no questions. It takes very little time to answer and you can skip any questions you don't want to answer.

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Children Aged 0 Through 5 Years Survey

Please answer each of the questions below by selecting the appropriate YES or NO response to the right. You may also choose to answer any additional questions that appear at the bottom of the page. When you have finished, press the SUBMIT button to see the results of your profile analysis!

Physical and Mental Health

1. Does your child need a doctor? YES NO

2. Does your child need a dentist? YES NO

Page 1 of 8 Next