

# **Edgewood Safe Start**

*Building a future after violence.*

Edgewood Center for Children and  
Families  
San Mateo, CA.

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# About Edgewood

# Edgewood Center for Children and Families

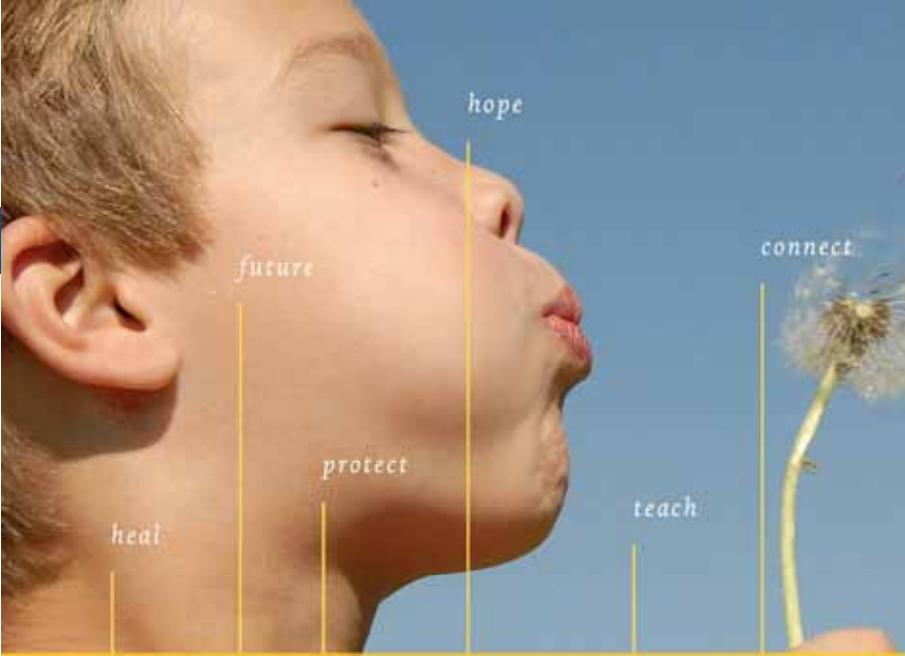
- The Mission of Edgewood Center for Children and Families is to strengthen children, youth, families, and their communities through service, training, advocacy, and research.

# Edgewood Center for Children and Families


- Edgewood helps children and families overcome severe challenges like abuse, neglect, mental illness, and family crisis.
- Edgewood was founded in 1853. Since then it has evolved to become an innovative, multifaceted agency.
- Edgewood provides essential services to more than 5,000 Bay Area children and families each year.



One of our most exciting community based research programs at Edgewood is Safe Start.



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## Edgewood Safe Start

### What is Safe Start?

Safe Start is a national research project that serves Kinship families with children ages 0-7 who have been exposed to violence. There are a total 15 test sites throughout the United States that collaborate with ECCF.

### What does Safe Start do?

Safe Start provides intensive Child Parent Psychotherapy, assessment and supportive services. This national program aims to promote community investment in evidence-based practice that reduces the impact of children's exposure to violence.

# Presenting Issues

- Violence is measured by using a simplified version of the \*TESI.
- Children who have been exposed to violence in their home or community.



\*Traumatic Event Screening Inventory by the Institute of Community Based Services, Edgewood Center for Children and Families, April, 2006.

# Presenting Issues

- Children exhibit behaviors, symptoms, and emotional difficulties relating to their trauma.
- This effects the relationship between the child and caregiver, which is the focus of treatment.
- There is often an intra-generational cycle of violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.



## Services Offered

- Services are aimed to promote community investment in evidence-based strategies that reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence.

# Location of Services

- Families are met wherever is most convenient for them.
- This can include home-visits, Edgewood's out-patient clinics located throughout the county, and any other setting within the families community.



## Research Design & Referral Process

- Families are identified and referred by KSN staff and other providers.
- Eligibility criteria: children ages 0-7, exposed to violence, residing in San Mateo County. Families need to be able to provide consent to treatment.
- Families are randomized into Treatment or Control upon completion of the baseline assessment.

## Research Design & Referral Process, (Continued)

- Families in Treatment and Control Groups receive: baseline and follow-up assessments at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months.
- Both groups are eligible to receive all Kinship services, including therapy.

## Research Design & Referral Process, (Continued)

- Treatment Group: receives specialized intensive weekly Child-Parent Psychotherapy from a Bilingual Safe Start Clinician.
- Control Group: Eligible to receive therapy from another Clinician, if necessary.

# Retention & Incentives

- Families enrolled in Safe Start receive a monetary stipend upon completion of each of their assessments.
- Families in the control group are able to receive feedback on assessments completed.
- Safe Start is a voluntary program and families are able to discontinue services at any given time.

# Thank You

