

Children's Law Center of Bay Area Legal Services

The Children's Law Center is dedicated to expediting permanency for Hillsborough County children ages birth to 5 years old and siblings in Out-of-Home Care including foster care.

Research shows that young children who have experienced physical abuse have lower social competence, show less empathy, may develop attachment disorders, and have learning deficits.

Abuse and neglected children are more likely to have mental health concerns, educational problems, occupational difficulties, and public health and safety issues.

Out-of-Home Care children are at risk for these and many other problems. However, research confirms that the early years present an unparalleled opportunity to intervene on behalf of these children.

Length of Stay in Foster Care for a 5 year old
18.7 months for reunification
40.7 months for adoption

Facts:

- ◆ **Hillsborough County ranks third in the State of Florida in the number of children under 5 years old in Out-of-Home Care including foster children.**
- ◆ **34 percent of foster children available for adoption are 5 years old and younger.**
- ◆ **Over 1500 children five years old and younger are in Out-of-Home Care.**