

# Concept Paper: Continuum of Care Approach

Often community assessments use a “continuum of care” approach to determine which services are available and which are needed. This approach compares local to model systems of care and determines what key local services are missing. Then an assessment is made to determine which needed services would be the most beneficial to implement first. Below are some examples.

## Prevention services to support children at home

- Homemaker services
- Home health care

## Diversion programs to keep children from needing services

- School-based inclusion support
- Therapeutic camping
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Case management
- Adoption

## Out-of-home care services

- Whole family Residential Treatment
- Group shelter care
- Acute residential care
- Long-term residential care
- Part-time residential care
- Family foster care
- Specialized foster care
- Residential support for high-risk foster family care

## Aftercare and Community Support

- Staffed apartments
- Halfway house

## Family support services

- Family Preservation
- Non-traditional, community based boarding schools
- Planned respite care
- Family therapy

## Wraparound Services ([www.ncyc.com/Wrap/wngloss.html](http://www.ncyc.com/Wrap/wngloss.html))

- Individual or family teams to develop, coordinate, and monitor service plans
- Coordination of formal services from agencies, informal services from clergy, community leaders, etc, and the funding for these services
- Planning of services by a community team of stakeholders

Listed from least restrictive to more restrictive



A child protective services continuum of care might be: In-Home Family-Based/Family-Centered Services, Short-Term (Emergency) Shelter, Traditional /Treatment Foster Care, Residential Long-Term (Group Home), Specialized Treatment, Treatment Group Home, Inpatient Residential Treatment. Some kids move along this continuum as they acquire/master the skill sets that enable them to function as close to societal norms as possible.

See also: Stuck, E.N., Small, R. W., & Ainsworth, F. (2000). Questioning the continuum of care: Towards a reconceptualization of child welfare services. Residential Treatment for Children and Youth, 17(3). 79-92.