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Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center

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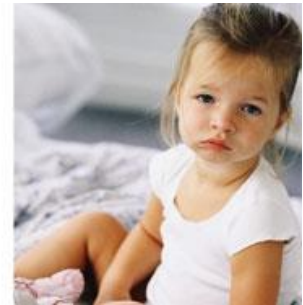
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Sponsor Profile: Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center



In 1999, a group of faculty from Western Michigan University and several health care providers from the community met to discuss the possibility of creating a comprehensive, interprofessional assessment center for children exposed to maltreatment. Sixteen years later, and with over 3,000 children assessed, the Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center (CTAC) continues to serve our most vulnerable population. The interprofessional team includes a behavioral pediatrician, as well as professionals from nursing, occupational therapy, social work, and speech pathology.

The mission of the center is to assess the impact of traumatic events on children and adolescents between the ages of 3 months to 17 years. Most of the children assessed have entered foster care due to experiences of child abuse or neglect, and in many cases the children have experienced multiple placements, which further exacerbates the impact on their lives.

In addition to direct assessment and consultation services, the CTAC has had a consistent commitment to the education and implementation of trauma informed systems. This includes individuals and communities in our local community, the state of Michigan, and nationally to better serve children and their families.

Please see the CTAC [website](#) for detailed information about the services of the CTAC, including the most recent publications, presentations, and grant activities. The CTAC is supported by reimbursements for part of the costs of individual assessments and through funding from grants. There also are opportunities for individuals to support the work of the CTAC by way of direct gifts, as noted on the website.

In addition, a recent article in [Encore](#), a community-based publication in Kalamazoo, Michigan, provides a close up profile of the ongoing work of the center.

Dr. Ben Atchison, Professor and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at WMU and Co-Founder of the WMU Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center is pleased to sponsor the Spring 2016 issue of OJOT.