

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Budget Includes Support for Children's Social and Emotional Success in School

Rochester, NY – 3,000 children in New York State will continue to benefit from Children's Institute's Primary Mental Health Project, an evidence-based early intervention program that helps children with school adjustment, thanks to local legislators and the executive branch. The program was fully restored in the approved NYS 2011-2012 Budget.

"Our thanks go out to our entire local delegation, in particular Assembly members David Gantt and Joe Morelle and Senators Jim Alesi and Joe Robach, who were instrumental in the reinstatement efforts," said Dirk Hightower, Executive Director of Children's Institute. "We recognize that elected officials had enormous challenges in making painful budgetary decisions. We are grateful that our community's children and those throughout New York State will continue to receive early intervention services that support their emotional and social development, which contributes to their academic success."

Primary Project is a school-based early intervention program for preschoolers through 3rd graders who show difficulty in adjusting to the classroom environment. Primary Project has been proven to increase the learning skills, social skills, and self-confidence of children at risk for mental health issues.

"School principals tell us that Primary Project is a transformational experience for children, with results seen in the classroom, said Lori VanAuken, Deputy Executive Director. "Teachers report improvement in the children's behavior, and a reduction in the need for additional services. New York State understands that it is an inexpensive investment with short-term cost savings and long-term gains for children and communities."

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children by strengthening their social and emotional health. Through sound research and evaluation, the organization develops and promotes effective prevention and early intervention programs, materials and best practices for children, families, schools and communities. Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester and has served the community for over 50 years.

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STRENGTHENING SOCIAL AND
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