

# DULCE

Adopting DULCE to Better Serve Vermont Families and their Infants

Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone



**DULCE**  
An initiative  
of CSSP

DULCE is an evidence-based approach that proactively addresses social determinants of health, promotes the healthy development of infants from birth to six months of age, and provides support to their families in the pediatric health care setting

## HOW IT WORKS

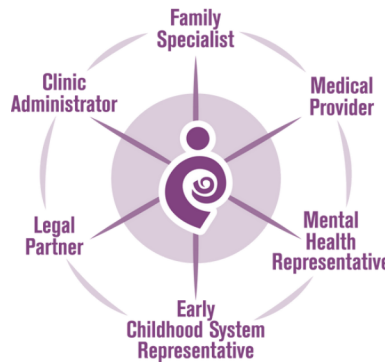
The DULCE interdisciplinary team meets weekly to identify supports for families

Family Specialists from local Parent Child Centers have advanced training in child development, are members of the local Children's Integrated Services team, and build trusting relationships with families in the pediatric office

The Family Specialist attends well child visits with families, provides screening and referrals, and connects families to services in the early childhood system

DULCE teams include a lawyer who helps children and families get the comprehensive services for which they qualify and improve the functioning of systems for the broader community

### DULCE Interdisciplinary Team



## MOST PREVALENT NEEDS IDENTIFIED



Economic hardship



Food insecurity



Parental/caregiver depression

## DULCE OUTCOMES



Accelerated access to supports



Better completion rates for well-child visits and immunizations



Reduced use of emergency department care

## UNIVERSAL APPROACH

The Family Specialist offers DULCE to all families with children 0-6 months of age at the child's medical appointment

The pediatric health care setting provides a unique opportunity to build relationships and connections with all new families as more than 90% of Vermont infants have a well visit in their first weeks of life

Universal approaches, such as DULCE, reduce stigma which results in increased acceptance by families, earlier identification of risk, and accelerated connection to resources

## THE IMPACT OF DULCE IN VERMONT



99% of families chose to participate in DULCE

94% of DULCE families were screened for nine health-related social needs

80% of families with identified need connected to resources