



Dickerson Center for Children 1615 Augusta Rd. West Columbia, SC 29169
Phone: (803) 791-1511 www.dickersoncenter.org

DCC: A place where healing begins

Physically or sexually abused children require compassion and special nurturing. They and their families also need caring and specifically trained individuals in order to begin to cope and to heal. At Dickerson Center for Children [DCC], our main mission is to provide a healing environment that addresses the effects of child abuse. From administering mental and physical healthcare to assisting with complicated legal matters, DCC provides comprehensive support and resources for children who have been physically or sexually abused. Their needs are critical.

Our professional staff helps these special children and their families begin the healing process by providing emotional and physical support. The center helps to reduce further trauma and promote emotional healing through a one-stop comprehensive physical and mental assessment by trained professionals. We collaborate with cooperating agencies such as the Department of Social Services, state and local law enforcement agencies, the Guardian Ad Litem Program, the Solicitor's Office, and Community Mental Health. By providing all services under one roof, Dickerson Center for Children can offer a comprehensive and inclusive assessment and treatment plan for children and their families.

The Dickerson Center helps...

- Reduce the trauma experienced by children who have been physically or sexually abused
- Gather evidence through forensic evaluation and medical examinations to assist in the prosecution of abuse cases>
- Provide ongoing therapy to assist children in dealing with their abuse
- Provide case consultation and coordination services to other providers
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It is Nettie Dickerson's hope that the message children and visitors get from the center is one of caring and safety. With an engaging smile and sparkle in her eyes, Nettie Dickerson shared one of her Nettieisms, "WE is the magic word that creates success."

Beyond our association with medical and legal professionals, DCC has an onsite staff that includes a local pediatrician who serves as Medical Director. In addition, our staff includes licensed clinical psychologists, LMSW's, and a volunteer group of registered nurses.

The specialty care clinic provides medical exams, forensic interviews, and counseling Monday through Friday during business hours as well as some extended hours.

Additional support services include:

- Crisis management
- Children's advocacy
- Follow-up services
- Community education programs
- Information and referral services

Dickerson Center for Children is a child-focused facility designed to treat children between the ages of 0 and 18. *Seventy-five percent of the children we treat are under the age of 10.*