

The Child Protection Center (CPC) at Montefiore Medical Center is a state-of-the-art diagnostic treatment center in the Bronx, New York. The multidisciplinary staff of the CPC evaluates over 600 children and adolescents per year for suspected child sexual abuse. Many of the children who are evaluated present with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression and suicidal ideation, as well as other psychosocial challenges and psychiatric diagnoses. The CPC responds to the needs of these children and adolescents by offering a clinical treatment program to assist them in coping with their traumatic experiences. Over 70 abused children and adolescents are treated in this clinical treatment program each year.

The Child Protection Center, a vital component of the Montefiore Child Health Network, is dedicated to developing new and innovative strategies to protect children and prevent abuse and neglect. The continued support of concerned individuals, corporations and foundations is essential to the success of this mission. If you or someone you know can support our efforts, or if you know of someone who can benefit from our services, please contact us. We are here to help. Write or call us at:

**The Child Protection Center
Division of Community Pediatrics
Montefiore Medical Center**
3314 Steuben Avenue
Bronx, NY 10467-2490
(718) 920-5833 - phone
(718) 405-6149 -fax

The Child Protection Center gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Salomon Family Foundation

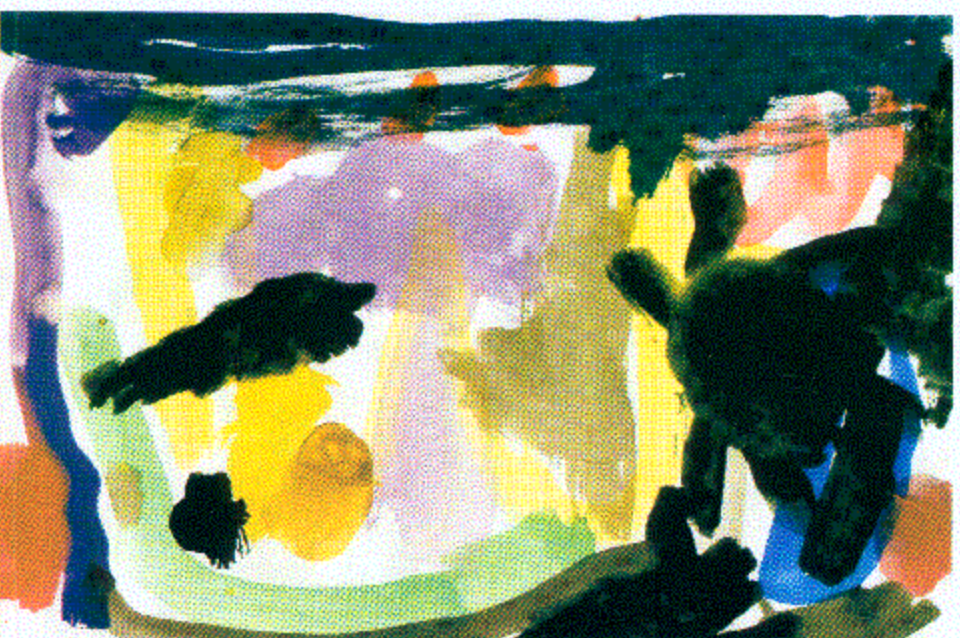
Program Contact
The Child Psychologist may be reached at (718) 920-7235



MONTEFIORE

MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER
The University Hospital for the
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**The Child Protection Center
Division of Community Pediatrics
Montefiore Medical Center**



Drawing by 5 year old child in therapy.

**The Salomon Family Foundation
Treatment Program**

The Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Children who survive childhood sexual abuse suffer in different ways. Besides enduring horrific abuse, the child may:

- be threatened by the perpetrator to keep silent
- have frequent nightmares and flashbacks about the abuse
- become depressed
- have poor school performance
- drop out of school
- feel like running away from home
- think about ending their life or even make an attempt to do so

These children feel like they have no way out of the abuse, and they may feel hopeless that the abuse will ever stop.

Making the disclosure of sexual abuse is the first step in the healing process. Non-offending parents may respond with intense feelings of grief, shame and guilt that they were unable to protect their children. They may not understand why their child did not tell them about the abuse sooner. They may have suffered from their own childhood trauma, which may become intensified by their child's disclosure.

The Healing Process

The Salomon Family Foundation Treatment Program at the Child Protection Center was developed to respond to the needs of children and their non-offending parents who are in crisis and in need of support to heal from this trauma. The Child Psychologist, Senior Social Workers, and Psychology and Social Work Interns provide individual, family and group therapy for children between the ages of 4-18 years old at the CPC.

Individual and Family Therapy

When the child and family are referred for individual therapy, they meet with the Child Psychologist for three evaluation sessions to assess the impact the trauma has had on the child and family and create a treatment plan. The child and non-offending parent meet weekly with the Child Psychologist for 12 sessions to develop new coping skills, process the traumatic experience, and develop a safety plan. Siblings and other family members may participate in sessions to discuss family related issues. Pre and post treatment measures are administered to formally evaluate the effectiveness of therapy.

Play Therapy

Younger children may have difficulty discussing the abuse and expressing their feelings in words. In these cases, the therapist may utilize art, anatomically correct dolls, therapeutic games and toys to engage the child in expressing themselves. As the child becomes engaged in the play, he/she is more able to discuss distressing thoughts and feelings related to the abuse he/she suffered. The healing begins.



Group Therapy

Children who have survived sexual abuse often think they are the only ones who have endured this trauma. Group therapy can be extremely effective in aiding the healing process, especially for children who are too embarrassed or frightened to discuss the abuse, and for boys who have great difficulty admitting they have been sexually abused.

Groups Offered

Sexually Abused Girls (ages 8-12) and their Non-offending Parents

Sexually Abused Teens (females ages 13-17) and their Non-offending Mothers

Sexually Abused Boys (ages 7-11) and their Non-offending Parents

Therapy groups for children and parents are offered on the same day, at the same time. Groups consist of 6-8 participants, and meet for 12-14 weeks, 1-1/2 hours each week. The groups are semi-structured and include art and other therapeutic activities to facilitate discussion.