

**HARVEST FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFERS:**

# **THERAPEUTIC VISITATION SERVICES**

Our Therapeutic Visitation Services program provides progressive supervised visitation in a warm and welcoming environment allowing for children and their families to meet in comfort and enjoy home-like surroundings. Parents will spend time with their children in the presence of a master's level, licensed clinician. Families receive therapeutic support from these clinicians to strengthen and repair their relationship during each visit. Clinicians facilitate interactions via dialogue and age-appropriate play between the parents and their children.

The clinicians model healthy parenting styles and correct any issues preventing a productive relationship within the family. Our clinicians care about our youth and their families and intervene with compassion and skill.

**Available by appointment only, call 908-237-0465**

**@ Harvest Family Success Center, 87 Park Avenue, Flemington**

**Fee: \$100 per hour**



**The Harvest Family Success Center is administered by Hunterdon Prevention Resources with funding from the Department of Children and Families.**

*This program is made possible due to a grant offered by the County of Hunterdon, Department of Human Services.*

## **Therapeutic Visitation**

### **What are therapeutic visits?**

In a safe and structured setting, therapeutic visitation services provide visits between children and noncustodial parents under the impartial and clinically informed licensed mental health professional. The clinician will provide constructive criticism to the visiting parent, both during visit and as part of a debrief at the end of each visit. Clinician will also illicit feedback from the children and the custodial parent/caregiver. These services are time-limited and short-term. The goal being to ensure the safety of children during the visit, improve the bond between the parent and child, enhance the parenting skills of the noncustodial parenting while managing the trauma cues of the children.

### **Who would benefit from therapeutic visitation?**

Therapeutic visitation services are typically court-ordered and as such, the clinician will submit reports as requested by the court. Families where therapeutic visits would be indicated are ones in which physical or sexual abuse has been alleged, a child has not seen a parent for extended period of time, a child is refusing to visit with the parent due to fear or anger, a child is transitioning between caregivers and/or transitioning from foster (resource) care to biological parent.

Families where there has been fracture due to conflict and hostility which has involved the children are also candidates for this service. It is expected that these services would increase the trust between family members while reducing conflict and hostility. Families who are willing to work towards safe and healthy increased visitation time between the noncustodial parent and the child with integrity will benefit the most from the services.

Therapeutic visitation will not result in a recommendation regarding custody.

### **What steps need to be taken to engage a family in this service?**

Once your family has been referred to the service, the clinician will be assigned and will review the court order and any clinical assessments which may assist in formulating a plan for these visits. If DCP&P is involved, it is strongly recommended that a family team meeting be convened to formulate the visitation plan. Family members involved with therapeutic visitation 's Are also often involved with individual therapy. Therapeutic visitation should include collaboration amongst these professionals. The assigned clinician will meet with the noncustodial parent and the child's custodial parent/caregiver separately to obtain a history and to establish ground rules for the visits. A formal contract regarding these visits will be formulated and include rules for a drop off and pick up, for visitation cancellation, rules about photography during a visit and gift giving, rules about communication during a visit including discussing other family members or court matters in the child's presents. These are some of the examples for ground rules. The clinician will also meet with the child, if they're able to assist in identifying their needs in order to feel safe and empowering during the visit. Is expected that the clinician will engage the child in the beginnings of a therapeutic relationship through age appropriate rapport building exercises.

A therapeutic visitation agreement will be formulated and signed by the custodial and non-custodial parent. All parties to receive a copy of the same.

Therapeutic visits are guided by the court order and the comfort level of the child. Any changes in visitation parameters must be approved by the court prior to occurrence.