

Education Supports Program Area--Effects of Childhood Trauma

The Morris Stulsaft Foundation believes education supports enrich the lives of all children, and can be especially enriching for children that experience trauma.

Trauma is the psychological, emotional response to an event or experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing. Research shows that complex and prolonged trauma has profound effects on physical, mental, and behavioral health outcomes across one's life. Communities that experience persistent bigotry, poverty, violence, and individual trauma (for example, abuse, neglect, sudden loss of a loved one, cultural or gender considerations) can suffer toxic levels of stress. Stress is linked to six of the leading causes of death, and stress from trauma affects more than just the individual, it ripples out to others, often carrying over to multiple generations.

The publication of ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) research beginning in 1998 brought the impact of childhood trauma into public awareness and resulted in greater national attention to supportive services needed for young children who have experienced adverse and traumatic events. The Morris Stulsaft Foundation aims to support organizations with a keen sensitivity to trauma broadly, and that demonstrate how their education programs address childhood trauma¹.

¹ Sources: <http://centerforanxietydisorders.com/what-is-trauma/>;
https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/nctsi/nctsi-infographic-full.pdf <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/trauma-concept>; <https://traumainformedoregon.org/>; <https://www.nctsn.org/trauma-informed-care/family-youth-provider-partnerships/introduction>; https://ncg.org/sites/default/files/resources/Trauma%20Informed%20Philanthropy_Webinar_2018-07-16.pdf