

For Immediate Release

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**Important Resource for Parents: www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com
Features New Web Content on School-Based Mental Health**

Farmington, CT - Beginning today, the popular parent resource for child mental health information www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com features a new **"Mental Health in Schools" section**. The new school content includes important information about how mental health directly impacts a child's experience at school and how parents and caregivers can access school and community mental health resources for a child in need. Much like the kidsmentalhealthinfo.com website, this section is filled with [frequently asked questions](#), an extensive resource library of [publications](#), [facts and figures](#) and [links](#) specifically focused on school-based mental health.

"There are an estimated 120,000 students in Connecticut with diagnosable mental health conditions, ranging from mild anxiety to debilitating disorders," said Bob Franks, child psychologist and director of the Connecticut Center for Effective Practice. "Less than 20 percent of these students needing help are actually getting help - and the few getting help are primarily getting it through their school. This website makes it easier for families with concerns about their child's mental health to better understand options for seeking treatment and access school and community resources earlier."

The Mental Health in Schools section also includes information and links on **bullying, school violence** and safety, and students at-risk for suspension, expulsion and **in-school arrest**. The site describes a "best practice" program used in 12 Connecticut schools called the [Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative \(SBDI\)](#). SBDI is a highly effective intervention using mental health resources to reduce in-school arrests and other exclusionary discipline practices.

The Connecticut Center for Effective Practice (CCEP), a division of the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) initially developed www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com in November 2010 to serve as a free, comprehensive resource on children's mental health issues for parents and caregivers. When parents are first confronted with worries about their children's mental health, they often feel overwhelmed. The website provides a range of information in **English and Spanish** impacting toddlers to late teens.

For more information, visit www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com or contact Julie Tacinelli at tacinelli@uchc.edu or 860-679-1534 or Cindy Langer at langner@uchc.edu or 860-679-1538.

Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) works to advance policy, systems, program and practice changes that will result in better health and developmental outcomes for the children of Connecticut. **The Connecticut Center for Effective Practice (CCEP)**, a division of CHDI, focuses on improving mental health care for children across Connecticut.

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