Partnering with parents to promote better behavior and family relationships

The Parents in Charge (PIC) team helps families with children between the ages of 2 and 6 determine if their child’s disruptive or challenging behaviors fall within a developmentally typical range. When needed, we then work with parents on how to direct the child onto a healthier path.

We assess each child individually, looking at normative child development and the particular expectations and influences of each family. PIC welcomes the full spectrum of families, including stepfamilies, adoptive families, same-sex families and grandparent-led families.

For more information or to set up an initial evaluation at our downtown location, please call 312-609-5300, ext. 658, or email pic@family-institute.org.

Now offering free assessment and treatment for families who are unable to pay for services.


Evaluations are provided at our downtown Chicago location.
Treatment is available both downtown and in Evanston.

Program components include:

1. ASSESSMENT OF THE CHILD
   - The Disruptive Diagnostic Observation Schedule allows us to observe a child’s ability to cope with frustration and disappointment.
   - Additional testing allows us to evaluate language and cognitive abilities, key building blocks of self-control.
   - Interviews with parents provide information about the child’s developmental and behavioral history.
   - Observing the child’s behavior at school or daycare, when appropriate, allows us to see the youngster in a naturalistic setting with other children.

2. COLLABORATION WITH PARENTS
   We share with parents information learned during the assessment, and begin to lay the foundation for a plan of action best suited to the family’s needs.

3. BEGINNING THE ACTION PLAN
   The entire family is invited to participate in coaching sessions — siblings, parents, involved grandparents, caregivers — as part of an 8-week, family-focused intervention. We discuss with everyone methods designed to more effectively manage the child’s challenging and disruptive behaviors, with the goal of promoting the sort of coping and self-control that are part of healthy early development.