



What is Trauma-informed Care?

Most of the children who come to the Ranch have experienced significant trauma, which has impacted their ability to succeed at home, at school, and in the community.



We screen and assess all children for trauma by documenting their Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs are stressful or traumatic events, and include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, witnessing violence, substance misuse in the household, household mental illness, parental separation or divorce, time spent in foster care, or an incarcerated household member.



Research indicates that the brains of children who are

exposed to chronic trauma and stress are wired differently than children whose experiences have been more secure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the higher the ACE score, the greater the risk of experiencing poor physical and mental health, and negative social consequences later in life.

When the adolescent brain is exposed to healthy experiences and relationships, it can “rewire” itself.

At the Ranch, we weave trauma-informed practices (providing positive experiences, identifying and building on strengths, building positive relationships) into all residential and educational programs, which is proven to have a long-lasting impact on traumatized youth.



DakotaRanch.org • 1-800-344-0957

The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is
to help at-risk children and their families
succeed in the name of Christ.