



# Laura Dester Children's Center

*7318 E. Pine St. Tulsa, OK 74115*

Phone (918) 728-6700

Fax (918) 728-6764

## *Mission*

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The mission of the Laura Dester Children's Center is to provide and maintain a safe, temporary placement for children who have been removed from their homes. The center is operated by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and serves children ages infant through 17 years old. The children may have been victims of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, environmental neglect, medical neglect, abandonment, and the general deprivation of the basic needs for children to grow and thrive. The staff of the center works to understand and meet each child's immediate needs until arrangements are made for their continuing care elsewhere.



## *About the Facility*

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Construction of the center's 48,200 square-foot complex, built on 20 acres, was completed in 2010. The complex includes four residential-style cottages, an administration/activity building, gymnasium, outdoor basketball court and play areas, security fencing and lighting. The cottages are designed to group residents by age in a home-like setting. Each child has an individual sleeping area and private bath. Outdoor recreation areas are developmentally appropriate for each age group and indoor common areas provide space for activities during inclement weather. Facilities include a 24-hour receiving center, nurse's office, family visitation rooms, opportunities for learning, counseling, initial assessments and psychiatric services.



**LAURA DESTER  
CHILDREN'S CENTER**

The image shows the exterior of a modern, single-story building with a light-colored facade. The name 'LAURA DESTER CHILDREN'S CENTER' is prominently displayed in large, dark, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the building. To the left, there is a glass entrance door. In the foreground, there is a landscaped area with a white banner that reads 'Folha Advocates to the Protection of Children' and a small blue sculpture of a child. The sky is clear and blue.



*A staff of 86 full time and part time Direct Care Specialists*

Direct Care Specialists supervise and care for the residents 365 days a year, seven days a week and 24 hours a day. They teach and monitor a child's basic life skills while at the center. They also record observations and incident reports regarding the daily activity of the center's children.

Social Workers process admissions and discharges, make entries into the Child Welfare database, and help manage crises. They also meet with residents daily, and develop and monitor a service plan for each child. They work with the child's school for bus transportation as well as all academic and extracurricular activities.



### *Nursing Services*

A Registered Nurse as well as a Licensed Practical Nurse are on duty 40 hours per week and are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### *Educational Services*

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001 all school aged children continue with the schools they came from, unless ineligible or determined not safe for the child. Tulsa Public Schools provides an after school tutor on campus for elementary-aged children. The Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children provides a teacher to work with early childhood age through high school with an emphasis on independent living skills.



### *Medical Program Services*

Pediatricians complete an initial health screening and social workers provide developmental, social and trauma screenings for the children.

### *Recreational and Volunteer Services*

A recreational therapist and assistants facilitate a wide range of recreational activities for all age groups.

Many local churches, service groups and companies also provide special programs and outings.

The shelter employs a full-time coordinator to administer a volunteer program of 100+ volunteers. Volunteers assist with everything from playing with children to sorting clothes and working on outdoor projects.



## *Psychiatric Services*

Psychiatric services formulates mental health treatment on all residents 6 years and older. They attend resident treatment staffings and review plans for all residents. They provide Milieu Therapy for all residents age 6 and older. We consult with a developmental psychologist who specializes in Reactive Attachment Disorder in young children for help with our younger population.

Individual therapy, group therapy and psycho-educational groups are also provided.

Outside professionals provide individual therapy for trauma assessments and sexual abuse issues.

All children receive an auditory screening and services by an audiologist on campus. Speech assessment and therapy, when needed, is provided as well as physical therapy and occupational therapy evaluations and treatment.

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**Child Welfare  
Services**

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