

In 2012, in Connecticut alone, almost 2,000 children 6 years and under—overwhelmingly black and Latino—[were suspended from kindergarten and preschool.](#)

These suspensions re-traumatize young children, and dramatically increase their risk of dropping out down the line—and being sent to prison. Instead of labeling them as bad kids and suspend them, why don't we see them as children, little children, who have faced adversities others haven't, and begin to provide teachers supportive services and the coaching they need to help these kids learn to thrive?

Some preschools are changing by adopting trauma-informed practices. Head Start is a leader with its [Head Start, Trauma Smart program](#) designed to help heal children three to five years old. The [ACEs Connection](#) is a hub for providers interested in developing trauma-informed practices, along with its companion website, [www.acestoohigh.org](http://www.acestoohigh.org).

Students suspended in public schools age 6 and under during 2011-12 school year

	suspensions
Achievement First Hartford	114
Bridgeport	293
Bristol	40
Danbury	15
East Hartford	154
Groton	49
Hartford	238
Manchester	79
Meriden	73
Middletown	11
New Britain	91
New Haven	89
Norwalk	25
Norwich	9
Stamford	26
Waterbury	173
Windham	27
<b>Statewide total</b>	<b>= 1,967</b>