

Differential Response is a family-centered approach for families struggling with issues of child abuse or neglect. Differential Response includes two tracks, an Alternative Response and a Traditional Response. Oregon calls this approach

## “Safe Children — Strong, Supported Families”

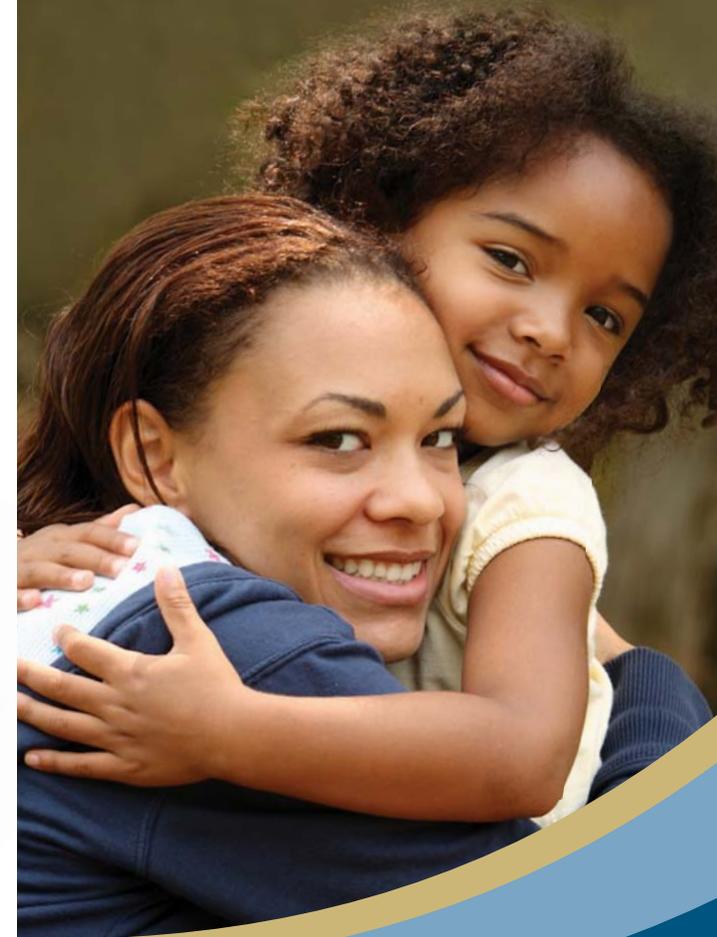
because children can stay with their family when they are able to:

- Act immediately and decisively to deal with threats to their child’s safety;
- Assist in adequate safety planning to manage threats to a child’s safety; and
- Be supported by family, other supports or community partners who can help them when they can’t do it alone.

Oregonians agree that children who stay safely at home with their families have the best chance to thrive. Children are safer and families stronger when DHS, communities and families work together to identify and provide for the families’ needs as early as possible.

For more information about:  
**Safe Children—**  
**Strong, Supported Families:**  
in your area, contact:

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# Safe Children— Strong, Supported Families

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## Oregon’s Differential Response Model



# Oregon's Differential Response Model

Differential Response is based on the belief that parents love their children and want them to be safe. But they may need help to make that happen.

## How is a response chosen?

When Child Welfare receives a report defined by law as child abuse or neglect and the report requires assessment by the department, either a Traditional or an Alternative Response must follow. However, an Alternative Response is encouraged for most cases that do not allege severe harm. Both tracks receive a comprehensive safety assessment.



## Alternative Response

Alternative Response provides more opportunity to partner with families and community to solve family issues related to abuse and neglect. Removing dispositions and recognizing family as the experts of their own families are two parts of Alternative Response.

## How does it work?

When child protection workers are assigned a case of abuse or neglect in the Alternative Response, they generally call ahead to set up a time to meet with the family to complete a comprehensive safety assessment to determine if the child is safe. The family will be asked if they are involved with any community partner that they would like to accompany the CPS worker on the first visit. A service provider may also assess the family's strengths and needs in order to help the family determine what services may be helpful to them.

## Traditional Response

The Traditional Response is for the most serious reports of child abuse or neglect. These cases also receive a comprehensive safety assessment. A finding as to whether abuse or neglect occurred must be made.

When a child is found to be unsafe in either response, DHS will work with families to protect children. Foster care is the last resort and is used only when attempts to keep children safe at home have been exhausted.

