



ONE VOICE FOR
INCLUSIVE
HEALTH

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Separating Immigrant Children and Parents Policy Statement Committee on Public Policy and Advocacy // JUN 2018

SUBJECT: AADMD Position on Separating Immigrant Children and Parents

The American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry is against the current immigration practice of separating children from their parents while awaiting judicial determination of their immigration status.

This policy of familial separation and incarceration may subject children to trauma and may lead to stress and neuropsychological harm. Children experiencing disabilities and complex medical needs are at an even greater risk for immediate harm due to separation from family members and caregivers. Children with special health care needs are at additional risk and require special attention, nutrition, behavioral health, careful medication oversight and supervision which may not be available or appreciated at these centers. As health advocates for this at risk and compromised population we call for the immediate cessation of this policy and for an expedient reunification with their parents.