

Crossnore is excited to be the first agency in North Carolina to offer Homebuilders® services. Homebuilders® works with parents/caregivers of children, birth to 17 years old, to support in:

**Placement Prevention:** For children/families at immediate and imminent risk of being placed in DSS custody

**Reunification:** For children/families who are reunifying with their families after placement in DSS custody, when there is risk or concern of re-removal

**Foster Placement Stabilization:** For children at immediate and imminent risk of being removed from their current foster home placement

Homebuilders® Practitioners work with high-risk children and families involved with the child protective services system. The program gives families the chance to learn new behaviors, and helps them make better choices for their children. Practitioners work in the home with families approximately 10 hours per week for 4-6 weeks, to build up necessary skills, resources and supports, with the goal of removing the risk of harm to the child instead of removing the child. Child safety is ensured through small caseloads, program intensity, and 24-hour a day service availability. Recent studies show that 6 months after successful termination of Homebuilders® services, 86% of children are able to remain safely in their homes.

**DSS Social workers can make referrals to this program, if the following criteria are met:**

- The parent(s)/caregiver(s) are aware of the referral for Homebuilders®, and at least one parent/caregiver in the home is willing to participate.
- Confirm the family will be available for an intake session within 24 hours of referral.
- Confirm the family will be available to meet with a Practitioner 3 to 5 times per week, for a total of approximately 40 hours, during a 4 to 6 week period.
- Maintaining the child in the home is not just a temporary plan. The child is not on a waiting list or pending entry into out-of-home treatment, alternative placement or a juvenile justice institution.
- The parent(s)/caregiver(s) have been informed of the risk of removal/re-removal.
- DSS Referring Worker has had contact with the family within 2 business days prior to referral for placement prevention, OR within 1 week prior to referral for reunification.
- If child(ren) is referred for reunification services, the child will be returned to the family within 7 days of the start of Homebuilders® services.

After making a Referral, a Homebuilders® Supervisor will coordinate with the DSS Referring Social Worker to gather additional information to assess appropriateness of services.



the way home