

# Project DULCE

Development Understanding & Legal Collaboration for Everyone



*All families need help during the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of life.*

## What is DULCE?

DULCE Family Specialists at Boston Medical Center partner with parents of newborns – with the *dual goals of improving child development and reducing maltreatment*. This is accomplished by providing families with support for any unmet legal needs and age-related information on child development.

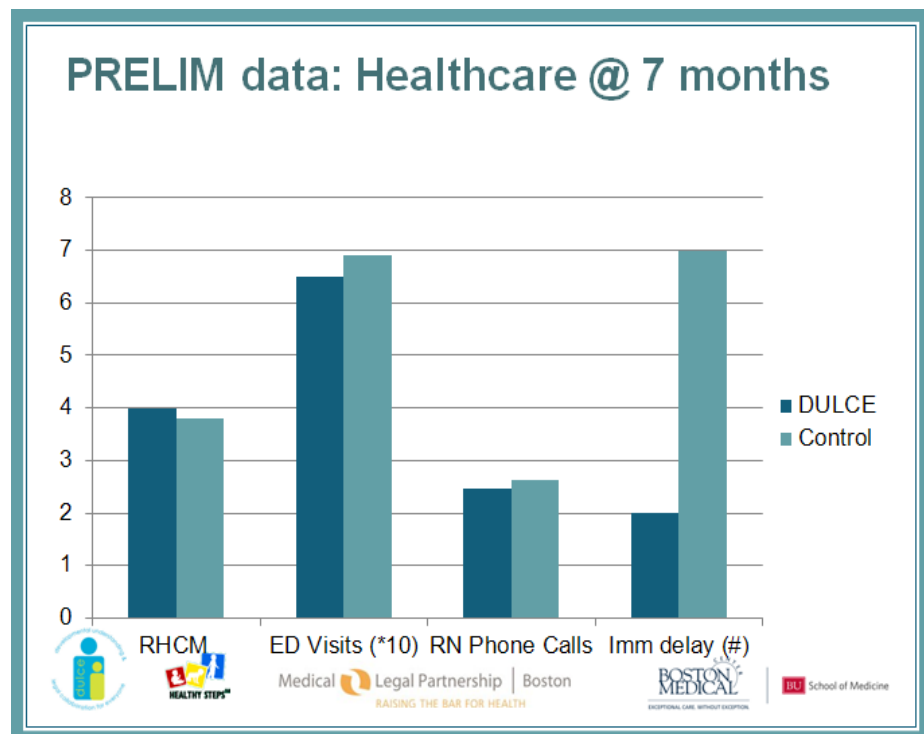
Since DULCE is part of a pediatric medical home, benefits of the program are not only for the new baby and parents, but the whole family – especially siblings.

Families meet with the DULCE Family Specialist at all routine visits.

Home visits and telephone check-ins are scheduled depending on the family's needs. At six months, the DULCE Family Specialist turns care over to the primary care team and any other ongoing services at Boston Medical Center or in the family's neighborhood, as necessary.

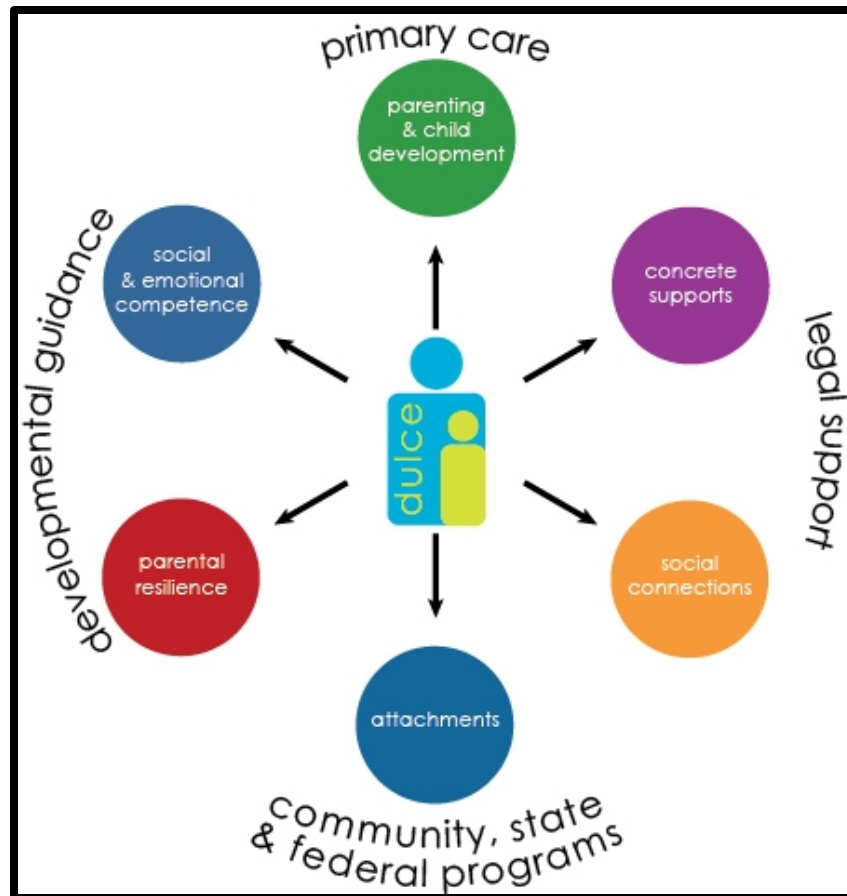
## DULCE works!

We are now completing a two-year randomized controlled trial of Project DULCE. This table has some of our preliminary results.  
(Spring 2013)



To find out more, please visit our website: <http://www.bmc.org/Project-DULCE.htm> or contact Grace Morakinyo, Project Coordinator at [gmora@bu.edu](mailto:gmora@bu.edu) or 617-414-3816.

# Supporting Six Family Protective Factors



## **Parental Resilience**

A parent's ability to bounce back from difficulties

## **Social Connections**

A network of informal or formal supports (e.g., friends, family, faith group)

## **Concrete Supports**

Knowing where to turn for help and how to navigate these systems (e.g., identifying and accessing programs to help with food, housing, utilities, child care, etc.)

## **Parenting & Child Development**

Parents know what to expect as their children grow and what behaviors are appropriate at for a given age

## **Social & Emotional Competence**

Children learn to talk about and handle feelings

## **Attachments**

Understanding appropriate emotional and behavioral relationships between children and familiar adults

