



Kentucky can...

Establish a minimum age of jurisdiction to prevent children from entering the maze of the juvenile justice system

Kids are kids, and we do not expect them to act like tiny adults. Young children who get in trouble need responses and interventions that address the root causes of their behavior, and the juvenile court system is not the place to do that. The formal court process can be traumatic, negatively impact a child's development, and trap children in an increasingly difficult maze of problems.

Kentucky has begun to make commonsense shifts in how we respond when young children get in trouble. We can continue that progress to ensure safer communities and brighter futures for kids.

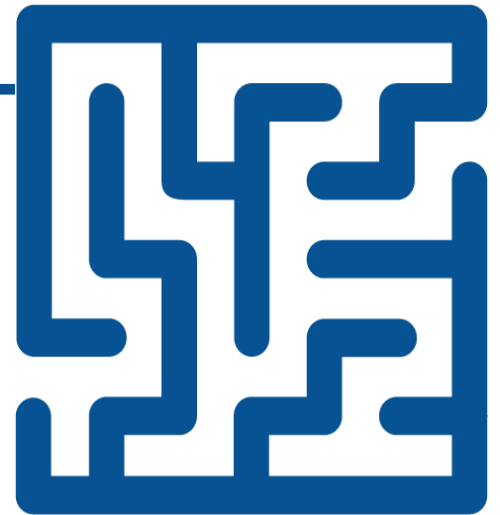
The best solutions address root causes of behavior

- Parents and other caring adults play a critical role in ensuring healthy development and supporting positive behaviors
- When children and their families have access to mental health treatment and therapy services, they can develop positive coping skills and build stronger family connections

Currently, the juvenile justice system operates like a **complex maze with many points of entry**, making it easy to get in but very difficult to get out.

Entering the juvenile court system can:

- Expose kids to trauma
- Disrupt their development and education
- Have roadblocks to exiting that ultimately can lessen employment opportunities and increase the chances of incarceration as adults



Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Establishing a minimum age that a child can be charged with an offense and connecting the child to family-focused services to prevent children from entering the maze of the juvenile justice system