



Trauma-Informed Transport

Whetstone Academy has a strong and industry leading policy on student transports.

As a CARF accredited, trauma-informed care facility, we only support trauma-informed transports. We emphatically denounce the practice of surprising a child in the middle of the night and taking them to a treatment facility of any kind, which is often referred to as “gooning.”

We require that a relationship be established with the transporter and child prior to transport from home or from another facility. “Trauma-informed care takes into account the connection between presenting symptoms and behaviors and a person’s past trauma history. Trauma-informed care is particularly important when supporting the transportation of a client from one place to another” (Silverstein & Hayes, 2017).

Whetstone Academy believes there are 5 key elements for trauma-informed transports: Safety, Collaboration, Relationship, Choice, and Empowerment. Trauma-informed transporters recognize that dysregulated or traumatized children feel powerless and out of control; therefore, if they are not included in the process, they cannot feel safe and secure. Whetstone believes that a child arriving to us should feel safe and secure – ultimately empowered to feel their experiences and behaviors are understood.

A trauma-informed approach creates a space during the transport journey whereby the person can begin to recognize their innate worth as a human being moving toward the healing process.

Silverstein, K. & Hayes, H., (2017). Trauma-Informed Transports: A Healing Approach, *Heather R. Hayes and Associates Newsletter*, 1.