



CHILD TRENDS REPORT

Love Is Not a Slogan. It's What Works.

2025



Child Trends examination completed December 5, 2025. Revised January 12, 2026. Authored by Kristin Moore, Vanessa Sacks, Rebecca Jones, Samuel Beckwith, Maeve Day, and Michael Bradley. Domus summary dated March 11, 2026.

www.domuskids.org



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS



A two-year examination by Child Trends affirms the strength, consistency and early outcomes of the Domus Relational Model.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

35+

YEARS CENTERING
RELATIONSHIPS

2

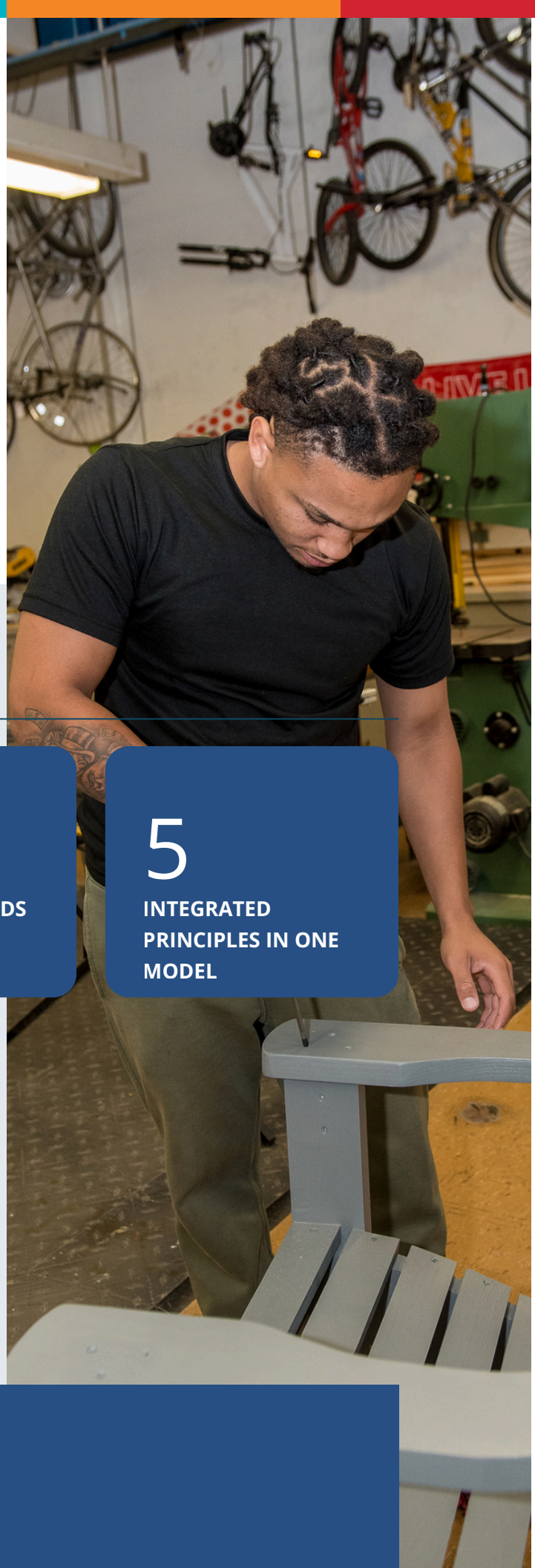
YEAR CHILD TRENDS
EXAMINATION

5

INTEGRATED
PRINCIPLES IN ONE
MODEL

For more than 35 years, Domus has built its work around a simple conviction: loving relationships can change life trajectories.

Independent research now affirms the model is grounded in evidence, implemented consistently and showing strong early results.



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**ONE MODEL. EVERY PROGRAM.
EVERY RELATIONSHIP.**



Domus uses one shared Relational Model across school-based and workforce programs. Every staff member is trained to work through the same relational lens, giving young people consistent, relationship-driven support across settings.

ONE SHARED MODEL

Child Trends found the framework strong and consistent with research on effective youth interventions.

01 Trauma-responsive practice

02 Anti-racism and equity

03 Positive youth development

04 Cultivating loving relationships

05 Thoughts, emotions and behaviors (TEB) skill-building, rooted in cognitive-behavioral therapy.

DOMUS' DIFFERENTIATOR
Face-to-face connection.



RELATIONSHIPS SHOW UP IN THE RESULTS.



95%

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

In School Engagement, service delivery and youth outcomes were positively associated at the 95% confidence level. Face-to-face engagement was statistically associated with improved attendance, grade promotion and high school graduation.

74%

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Participants exited successfully, defined as graduation plus post-secondary enrollment or employment

76%

DOMUSWORKS

Participants exited successfully, defined as maintaining full-time employment for six months.

90%+

ONE YEAR LATER

Across both programs, upwards of 90% of program graduates were either employed full-time or participating in post-secondary education one year after graduation.

Note: Only the School Engagement program had a large enough sample size to enable statistical testing. Child Trends noted the completion rates are meaningful given the significant barriers many participants face.



MEASURE. LEARN. IMPROVE.
SCALE.

Domus has built a strong foundation to track progress and strengthen programs over time. With support from Child Trends, Domus developed and tested a purpose-built youth survey focused on decision-making and problem solving, emotional awareness and perseverance.

Listen.

The survey was developed and tested with young people so the measures are meaningful and reliable.

Learn.

Participant feedback is used to guide learning, refinement and continuous improvement across programs.

Lead.

Child Trends found Domus well-positioned for more rigorous evaluation as the organization deepens its impact.

Early feedback is encouraging.

Most participants report feeling supported, heard and that they belong at Domus. Many say Domus has helped them believe they can change their lives for the better.

POISED FOR REPLICATION AND SCALE

Child Trends found that the Domus model is well-aligned with research and well-positioned for more rigorous future evaluation. Strong implementation, a well-defined theory of change, and a clear commitment to measuring outcomes makes Domus a promising candidate for additional study, including replication where needed to strengthen the evidence base.

DOMUS STANDS

READY TO LEAD.

Source: Child Trends two-year examination of Domus implementation and outcomes, completed December 2025. Domus summary dated March 11, 2026. Child Trends is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization focused on the well-being of children, youth, young adults and families.