
On-site mental health consultation services at early care centers and family child care homes in Boulder and Broomfield Counties

❖ Program Consultation

○ Consultation support for program administration

- Support regarding staff development and training needs
- Support for classroom practices
- Staff retention strategies
- Consultation with directors and staff to foster a culture that promotes healthy social-emotional development of children and families
- Assist in the development of “at-risk of expulsion” protocol to be used consistently throughout program

○ Consultation support to teachers and other staff

- Help teachers better understand, recognize and respond to children’s social/emotional needs
- Support for highly effective classroom practices
- Team building with classroom staff
- Conflict resolution between team members
- Observations of classroom as a whole as well as individual children and collaboration with teachers
- Plan with teachers for needs of individual children or groups of children
- Participate in teacher/parent conferences as requested
- Help teacher manage stress/mental health issues in an effort to assist staff be more emotionally available to children and their families
- Assist in responding to those children at-risk of expulsion according to protocol and child’s need
- General classroom groups (e.g.: social skills, violence prevention)

○ Community outreach and linkage-connecting with other programs

- Assist with transitions to other programs
- Assist in connecting with medical home, special education, early intervention and disabilities systems, and referral/linkage to other mental health supports as needed
- Work with child welfare agencies to support reunification or other permanency planning.

○ Classroom level mental health screening

- Train staff in foundations of and administering screening tool
- Provide interpretive results and assist staff in understanding findings and implementing strategies to promote resiliency and address behavior concerns

❖ **Child Specific Consultation**

- Work with specific families, including parent meetings, home visits, parent-teacher conferences, and teacher team meetings, and individual guidance regarding specific children including those children at risk of expulsion
- Targeted observation and assessment as appropriate
- Individual mental health intervention services for identified children as indicated and with specific consent of parent
- Referrals for further evaluation or other treatment resources for child or family member

❖ **Trainings and workshops for staff and families**

- Survey staff and parents for most meaningful topics and design training accordingly
- Provide training opportunities for teachers and parents that include self-reflection as a vehicle for understanding and supporting the work of social and emotional development
 - Trainings include both formal presentations and informal learning opportunities regarding specific topics
- Assist teachers in understanding their impact on the healthy emotional development of young children
- Facilitate bringing in outside presenters when needed

❖ **Health/Mental Health Integration**

- Cross training at centers/homes presented by health and mental health partners to discuss interplay of health and mental health on young children
- Support coordination of primary health screenings (hearing, vision, dental, and developmental) and follow up services provided to all families in partnership with early care setting
- Consultants monitor and utilize findings of both health and mental health screenings in partnership with teachers to assess the child's behaviors and plan classrooms that provide optimal opportunities for growth and development

To Learn more about the Kid Connects Program call **303-247-8752** or email mpowell@mhpcolorado.org