

Supporting Teachers

Encouraging teachers to promote emotional and social skill building from the beginning of each school year

Why:

Early childhood suspension and expulsion rates are on the rise. According to an article published on the Vanderbilt University website, "National studies show that preschool-age children are expelled for behavior problems at three times the rate of school-age children" (Brasher, 2016). In fact, the preschool suspension and expulsion rate has become so prevalent nationwide that in December of 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education issued a joint policy statement called *Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings*. According to the Joint Policy Statement, "Suspension and expulsion can influence a number of adverse outcomes across development, health, and education."

Although these numbers and negative impacts can feel overwhelming at times, there are steps that can be taken to reduce these rates. A joint statement, published on the NAEYC website, entitled *Standing Together Against Suspension & Expulsion in Early Childhood* states, "We know that young children thrive in the context of stable, supportive relationships with adults who love, teach, and care for them." One way to establish early childhood environments which support the social and emotional competency of young children is supporting teachers as they implement the Pyramid Model.

What to look for:

- Child-generated classroom rules/expectations/commitments
- Solution tool kit (an example can be found [here](#))
- Books about emotional/social situations (for a book-list click [here](#))

Guidance:

- Support teachers as they create the first level of the Pyramid (If needed, a teacher checklist can be found [here](#)).
- Visit/Revisit NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development Modules as needed depending on what area the teacher may need to focus.

For more information about supporting teachers through the Pyramid Model implementation, please contact your Regional Lead.

Resource Links:

- *Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors* Website
- *Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning* Website
- *The Pyramid Model/EC-PBIS: Preventing Bias, Suspensions and Expulsions in Early Childhood Settings* Webinar

Reference Links:

- NAEYC Joint Statement: *Standing Together*
- U.S. DHHS & U.S DOE Joint Policy Statement: *Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings*
- Vanderbilt University Article: *Pyramid Model Could Reduce Preschool Expulsion Rate*