

Expulsions, Suspensions and otherwise negative disciplinary practices in the childcare/pre-school setting

Presented by: Lenore Rubin PhD, Child Psychologist, Public Health, Seattle & King County Child Care Program

What should schools be supporting and helping children with....

- 1 Secure attachment to primary caregivers
- 2.ability to communicate needs and wants in a healthy way
- 3.confidence about exploring the world and interest in new experiences
4. Ability to have positive emotions and cope with negative emotions
5. increasing ability to control impulses
6. Ability to use social skills, sharing ,cooperation and enjoy positive interactions with peers

What is challenging behavior that will lead to being expelled?

Repeated pattern of behaviors that interfere with learning or engagement in social practices.
The behavior is unresponsive to guidance.

Child factors that lead to expulsion:

physical/verbal aggression
Disruptive behavior ("ruining" circle time etc.)
Non-compliance
Self-injury or withdrawal
uncooperative or negatively perceived parent
Diagnosis - oppositional defiant behavior problems, ADD

External factors:

Group size
Ratio
Support staff available
Teacher depression/job stress

Consultation available

“childcare that does not adequately address the SE needs of young children runs the risk of contributing to the development and expression of challenging behaviors”.

NIEER

Other factors generally discussed about childcare:

Research reports an increase in aggression in non-maternal care.

Higher cortisol levels in children in childcare when compared to those in family care.

Social pressure for an extended period of time

Strong predictor of later problems is programs of poor quality that don't address social-emotional developmental needs.

Office of civil rights just published guidelines around disciplinary policies in pre-schools:

2005 article by Gilliam included data about WA state ECEAP had high expulsion rates.

39 % of childcares report at least one expulsion—

African American boys over -represented- boys in general over -represented

Children with disabilities are also over re-presented and children where English is the second language are over-represented.

Also over represented in special education attendance.

The recent federal Block grant says no to expulsions and advises mental health consultation.

Office of civil rights just published guidelines around disciplinary policies in pre-schools.

IDEA—Individual with disabilities education act

FAPE—Free appropriate public education

Rights of children with disabilities

assess and ensure effectiveness of education.

What do you do???

Behavior policies— (no 3 bites type of policies as it mirrors prison- adds to school to prison pipeline)

Promote relationships with parents,

Consultation

reduce teacher stress

Increase both teacher and organizational efficacy through consultation and support.

Add anti-bias and serious racial equity training to teacher training programs.

Wage and career ladder

Provide consultation that focuses on skill development for teachers ,children and parents.

Children who are expelled are at risk for poor educational outcomes so it is a “red flag” requiring attention.