

Child Mental Health Procedure

Policy: In order to ensure support for a program-wide culture that promotes children's mental health, social and emotional well-being, and overall health the program partners with a mental health consultant and implements a research based, trauma informed classroom management approach.

Performance Standard 1302.45 Child Mental Health and Social and Emotional Well-Being.

Procedure:

- All classrooms will implement the powers, skills, and structures of Conscious Discipline® to provide trauma informed care integrated with brain based classroom management tools. All staff will receive ongoing training to support the implementation of Conscious Discipline.
- All students in all classrooms will be observed in the fall by the Mental Health Consultant. The Mental Health Consultant will generate individual reports for children with observable concerns.
- If during the school year a new child is enrolled or an existing child begins to display mental health concerns, the teacher may request a mental health observation using the Mental Health Referral form. This form should be submitted to the Education Manager who will make arrangements for a classroom observation with the Mental Health Consultant.
- A completed Intervention Strategy Summary Form as well as the e-DECA strategies selector report must accompany a mental health referral made by the teacher
- The Education Manager will provide the teacher with a copy of any reports for individual students. The teacher and family advocate should arrange to meet with the family as soon as possible to share the report. The teacher can request the Mental Health Consultant and/or Education Manager to attend the family meeting for additional support as needed. If mental health services are recommended, the family advocate should be prepared to provide the family with information/follow up support regarding accessing mental health services options in the community.
- The Mental Health Consultant can provide teacher consultation, parent consultation, and parent training workshops as requested.
- If a parent expresses concerns regarding their child's mental health, the teacher can submit a Mental Health Referral as the parent's request. The Education Manager will coordinate with the Mental Health Consultant who will contact the family.
- The e-DECA behavior rating scale will be completed on all children each October, February, and May. Additional ratings may be completed as needed for any child. Parents may be asked to complete ratings as well. Reports generated from the e-DECA assessment will be used to guide individualized instruction, environmental support, mental health referrals, and parent support. For children with social and emotional concerns, the e-DECA strategies selector will be used to generate researched based strategies specific to the individual child's resilience and protective factors.
- If necessary based on the child's ability to acclimate to the classroom environment, an early intervention plan will be developed by the Education Manager to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved with helping the child. Intervention plans will include individualized steps, supports, resources, strategies from the e-DECA strategies

selector, responsibilities specific to the child's mental health needs and will include input from the teacher and parent.

Referenced Forms:

Mental Health Referral Form

Intervention Strategy Summary