

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

No Magic Solution: Tackling Preschool Expulsion with Research and Experience Based Strategies

We Can't Wait Conference 2019
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YMCA CHILDCARE RESOURCE SERVICE

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AGENDA OVERVIEW

1. Welcome and introductions
2. What is preschool expulsion?
 - Prevalence/ scope
 - Impact
3. Why is it happening and what can we do about it?
 - What direction does the research point us in?
4. How does/can this translate to your daily practice and policies?

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Take a few minutes to introduce yourself at your tables; please share:

1. Your name
2. The type of childcare setting you work in/ or the work you do with children and families
3. What's one question/ curiosity you have about preschool expulsion?

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TYPES OF PRESCHOOL EXPULSION

What do exclusionary discipline practices look like in early childhood settings?
Examples of exclusionary practices in early childhood

- In-School Suspension could look like...**
Disciplining a child by sending the child out of the classroom, such as to the director's office.
- Out-of-School Suspension could look like...**
Asking a family to pick up their child early because of behavioral issues (e.g., biting, hitting, not following directions).
- Expulsion could look like...**
Telling a family that they will need to find another care arrangement/center because the child is not a "good fit" for the program or that the program can no longer support their toddler or preschooler.
- 'Soft' Expulsion could look like...**
Asking the family repeatedly to pick their child up early because of behavior issues, requiring them to leave or miss work frequently.

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PREVALENCE

10% nationally

3x rates in k-12 system in state preschools

13x rates in community based preschool settings

#1 reason for expulsion-challenging or aggressive BEHAVIOR




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CHILD LEVEL: BEHAVIOR, SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Early Childhood Mental Health is the developing capacity of infants, toddlers and young children to experience, manage, and express emotion; form close, secure relationships; and actively explore the environment and learn.

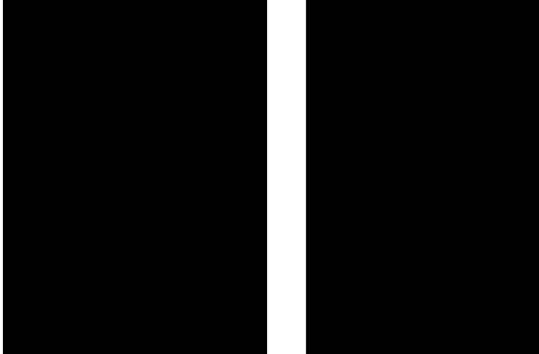
- Adapted from *ZERO TO THREE* (www.zerotothree.com)



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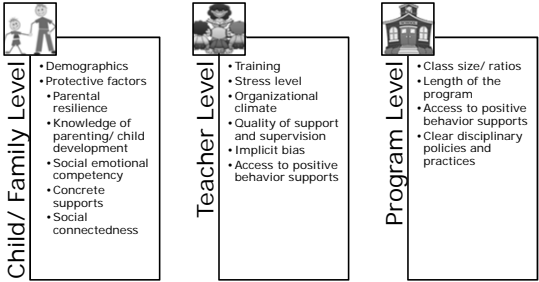
WHO IS BEING EXPELLED MOST?



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WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH TELL US ABOUT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS?



Child/ Family Level

- Demographics
- Protective factors
- Parental resilience
- Knowledge of parenting/ child development
- Social emotional competency
- Concrete supports
- Social connectedness

Teacher Level

- Training
- Stress level
- Organizational climate
- Quality of support and supervision
- Implicit bias
- Access to positive behavior supports

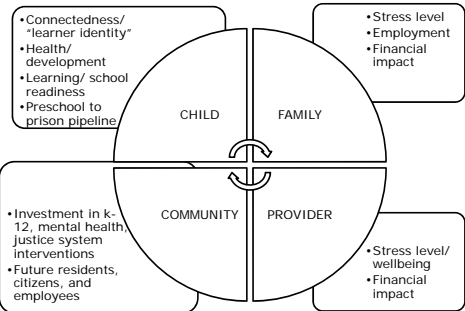
Program Level

- Class size/ ratios
- Length of the program
- Access to positive behavior supports
- Clear disciplinary policies and practices

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IMPACTS OF PRESCHOOL EXPULSION



CHILD

- Connectedness/ "learner identity"
- Health/ development
- Learning/ school readiness
- Preschool to prison pipeline

FAMILY

- Stress level
- Employment
- Financial impact

COMMUNITY

- Investment in k-12, mental health, justice system interventions
- Future residents, citizens, and employees

PROVIDER

- Stress level/ wellbeing
- Financial impact

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OK, SO WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY WE CAN DO ABOUT PRESCHOOL EXPULSION?

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AUTHENTIC FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Strengths-based
- Getting to know families- understanding their values, beliefs, culture, perspectives, etc.
- True partnership based on honor, respect and dignity; having shared goals for the child and working together to achieve them
- Setting expectations both ways
- Ongoing, meaningful communication

11 | PRESENTATION TITLE HERE | ©2010 YMCA of the USA

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POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS

- Responsive, nurturing relationships
- Strengths based
- Supportive behavior prevention/ management techniques
 - Developmentally informed
 - Social-emotional learning focused
 - Consideration of environment and physical space
- Early Childhood Mental Health consultation

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