

Developing Suspension and Expulsion Policies

It is **essential** all young children can both access and remain in a quality early learning program. In July 2017, Pennsylvania early learning programs were informed of the requirement to develop program specific policies to prevent, reduce and ultimately eliminate suspension and expulsion of young children from their programs.

Suspension and expulsion are actions adults take that greatly impact children. We can work together to make sure both children and teachers have the support they need to build great relationships and remain a part of their early learning community.

Suspension: An action that is administered in response to challenging behavior and requires that a child not be present in the classroom or the program for a specified period.

Expulsion: The complete and permanent removal of a child from an early learning program in response to challenging behavior or non-infectious health condition.

Developing Quality Suspension and Expulsion Policies

Fair and Appropriate Policies. It is essential all your program's policies follow the law

Highly Skilled Work Force. Teachers need support through education and technical assistance

Strong Family Partnerships. Families and early learning programs are partners in supporting children

Setting Goals and Tracking Data. Understand the full picture in your program

Universal Screening. Ensure all children have the supports they need and deserve

Access to Consultation. Additional support for early learning programs is available

For help developing a policy:

- PreventExpulsion.org
- [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation](http://NationalCenterforPyramidModelInnovation)
- [Paths Training](http://PathsTraining)
- [Second Step](http://SecondStep)
- [The Incredible Years](http://TheIncredibleYears)

What to do when you have a child with unique needs/challenging behavior?

Effective 8/1/2020, to request assistance from OCDEL, complete the online form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAExpulsionHelp

If you have a pre-existing or established relationship with your local Early Learning Resource Center, please reach out to them directly to receive program support.

If the child is already receiving EI Services:

With parent permission, reach out to the child's local EI program to request assistance.

An IFSP/IEP meeting will be held within 10 Early Intervention Program calendar days of request. If behavior has not previously been identified as special consideration, it must be added to the IFSP/IEP. The IFSP/IEP team will work with the family and early learning program to review and potentially revise the child's plan.

If the child has not previously been evaluated and the family and/or Early Learning program believes (s)he might be eligible for EI:

Work with the child's family to schedule an EI evaluation. To identify to whom the child should be referred, call the CONNECT line at 1-800-692-7288. If the child is eligible, the family is then encouraged to involve the early care provider in planning meetings. If the child is not eligible for services, the EI evaluator and the EC program should assist the family in accessing other services and/or provide some strategy suggestions.

If the child has previously been evaluated and does not qualify for EI:

Request assistance from the Early Learning Resource Center to receive appropriate supports.