



The Pyramid Model

for Promoting Social-Emotional Competence
in Infants and Young Children

The IECMH Consultation program is grounded in the Pyramid Model. The Pyramid Model is an evidence based, multi-tiered, bottom-up approach. It is important to look at and think about the bottom tiers before you consider the middle and top tiers.

For example, when problem-solving ways to support a child with challenging behavior, ECE staff should reflect on how they respond to a child's communication (i.e., Tier 1- Nurturing and Responsive Relationships) before working with Early Intervention or a Behavior specialist to create a behavior intervention plan (i.e., Tier 3- Intensive Intervention).

Tier 3: Tertiary Intervention

- **Intensive Intervention** applies to the small number of children who, even when all preventative practices are in place, including targeted supports, still demonstrate social emotional needs and/or challenging behaviors. These children will require additional intensive intervention, typically in the form of Early Intervention (EI) or Intensive Behavior Health Support (IBHS).
- **IECMH Consultants** do not provide Tier 3 services; however, we can assist teachers and families in determining if this level of support is recommended and how to access them.

Tier 2: Secondary Prevention

- **Secondary Prevention** represents those children who will need **extra** directions, strategies, and patience to succeed. With the right supports, they will thrive in the classroom.
- **IECMH Consultants** support teachers in creating targeted, preventative social emotional strategies to prevent problems or challenging behaviors

Tier 1: Universal Promotion

- **Universal Supports** states that ALL children need warm, nurturing, and positive relationships in a warm, supportive, and loving environment for healthy social and emotional development. If ECE professionals intentionally create and build positive relationships and a high-quality environment, the social-emotional needs of the majority of the children in their classroom will be met.
- **IECMH Consultants** support teachers in the process of reflecting on their relationships, examining the quality of their environment

Supporting the Pyramid Model

- The foundation of the pyramid model is an **effective workforce**. That is having qualified, nurturing, and responsive teachers and staff.

