

It is *essential* that all young children have the opportunity to both access and remain in a quality early learning program. In July 2017, Pennsylvania early learning programs were informed of the need to develop program specific policies to prevent, and support the reduction of the 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 ensure 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 because of a child’s developmentally inappropriate 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 because of challenging behavior or non-infectious health condition

Developing Quality Suspension & Expulsion Policies

Fair and Appropriate Policies

- It is essential all of 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

Settings Goals and Track Data

- Understanding 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
- [Center on the Social & Emotional Foundations for Early Learning](http://CenterontheSocial&EmotionalFoundationsforEarlyLearning)
- [Second Step](http://SecondStep)
- [The Incredible Years](http://TheIncredibleYears)

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

Contact the CONNECT Helpline for Referral: 1-800-692-7288*

Receive a referral for Program Support

*If you have a pre-existing or established relationship with your local EI Services provider or Regional Key, please reach out to them directly to receive program support.

If the child is already receiving EI Services:

- The IFSP/IEP Team will respond by adding a previously unidentified behavior to the IFSP/IEP or work with child care personnel to develop or share strategies.

If the child has not previously been evaluated for EI services:

- Work with the child’s family to schedule an EI evaluation. The child will either receive EI Services, or the EI evaluator will assist the family in accessing other supports.

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

- Contact EI services with concerns and ask about re-evaluation. In the interim, continue to work with the Regional Key in order to receive appropriate program supports.