

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Models of Service

Project ACT is dedicated to collaborating with childcare centers, preschool programs and family childcare providers to provide young children with optimal services and opportunities for school readiness and healthy development. Project ACT creates linkages to inform the community of the resources available and creating a referral system for individual children in need of additional services. Any child ages birth through age five, whose overall social and emotional development is of concern to the childcare provider, parent, or legal guardian, may be referred to Project ACT. When a childcare provider chooses to participate with Project ACT, the following model of service is available:

Tier 1: Foundational Technical Assistance

Project ACT will provide coaching and mentoring for specific inclusive strategies designed to provide universal behavior support to all children in the classroom. This foundation must be in place for successful behavior intervention. Tier 1 services will be provided to the childcare providers biweekly for *up to* two months (approximately 4 sessions).

- A. Parental/guardian consent is not required to provide Tier 1 services.
- B. Effective collaboration in partnership with the Director, Provider and Classroom Support Specialist is required in order to provide these services. As such:
 - a. Directors and providers must be active participants by implementing classroom recommendations as agreed upon in the action plan to ensure that universal inclusive practices are in place.
 - b. Continuation of service to Tier 2 consultation is contingent upon the demonstration of effort to implement classroom recommendations.
- C. Coaching and mentoring could include classroom observation; collaborative problem solving; routines based interviewing; routines based conversations; modeling and action planning services.

Tier 2: Individual Child Consultation

Project ACT's models of service address the social-emotional development of an individual child who has been referred for services by the parent, legal guardian, provider or director. Each child is observed, assessed, and if services are warranted, an individualized support plan is completed.* Coaching and mentoring is provided for the child care providers and program director to meet the needs of the individual child for up to six months (approximately 14 visits). The parent/guardian is provided with weekly updates and phone consultation.

**If the child already has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) in place that includes services in the child care program, Project ACT will assist the*

[Abilities Network®]

PROJECT ACT

classroom providers and program staff by creating a Snapshot IEP/IFSP and providing a brief consultation program of two on-site coaching visits.

- A. All children receiving Tier 2 services are required to have parental/guardian consent before any services are provided.
- B. Effective collaboration in partnership with the Director, Provider, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Project ACT's Inclusion Specialist is required in order to provide these services to the individual children.
 - a. For Center-Based programs:
 - i. Director's, or when applicable, their Designee, are required to meet in person, or by phone, with the Project ACT Inclusion Specialist after each on-site visit to discuss progress.
 - ii. Director will be asked to complete a weekly Plan of Action Checklist to help classroom teachers with carryover and implementation of recommendations.
 - iii. Director is required to attend two (2) post plan of action on-site consultation visits for coaching from a Project ACT Inclusion Specialist.
 - b. For Center-Based and Family Childcare Programs:
 - i. Provider(s) and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are asked to complete assessments in a timely manner, as well as be active participant's in the planning process by helping to create a plan of action based on recommendations created by Project ACT.
 - ii. Providers(s) are asked to be active participants by implementing classroom recommendations to help improve the overall social-emotional climate of the classroom as well as behavioral strategies for child specific needs, when applicable.
- C. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must attend at least one (1) Parent Workshop, which are provided virtually one time per month.

Tier 3 (as needed): Resource and Referral Support for Evaluation and Intervention

Additional resources and referrals are provided as deemed necessary and only with express written parental/guardian consent.

***Example:** If a childcare provider has a concern about a child's language development and challenging behavior, the child may be referred to this project because problems with communication affect the child's social and emotional well-being. If the child is in need of a referral to a specialist to address language concerns, the referral will be made with the consent of the parent/guardian.*

[Abilities Network®]

PROJECT ACT

What should I expect?

Tier 1: Foundational Technical Assistance

- Upon initial referral, the childcare program is contacted by a Classroom Support Specialist
- Biweekly Classroom Coaching (4 sessions)

Tier 2: Individual Child Consultation

- Parental consent is received
- Parent/guardian and childcare program are contacted by an Inclusion Specialist or Mental Health Specialist
- Initial Meeting with childcare staff
- Parent/guardian and provider are asked to complete assessments
- 3 hours of observation of child and classroom (2-3 visits) – parents contacted following each visit
- Plan of Action meeting with parent/guardian and childcare staff
- Weekly Coaching (6 visits) – parents contacted following each visit
- Bi-weekly Coaching (4 visits) – parents contacted following each visit
- Parent/guardian and provider are asked to complete assessments

Tier 3 (when needed): Resource and Referral Support

- Parent/guardian is contacted about the need for an outside referral for evaluation or services
- Parent/guardian and Inclusion Specialist or Mental Health Specialist collaborate to make the referral