



Application

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Program Name:

Program Director Name / Signature:

Program Address:

Phone #: _____

Total # of Children in Care: _____

Estimated % of Children with Purchase of Care Assistance: _____

Estimated # of Children for whom child-specific consultation is requested: _____

FAX TO: 302-453-4112



ECMHC

Building capacity and improving abilities in early childhood programs

Funding for ECMHC is provided through Delaware's Child Care Development Fund through the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Social Services. Additional support is provided by the Delaware Children's Department, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services' Delaware's B.E.S.T. for Young Children and Their Families through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of SAMSHA or HHS.

For translations of this publication, call 302-781-3224.



Delaware Children's Department
Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services
302-781-3211

Rev. 9/2010

NCTSN

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

A Partnership with Providers of Early Childhood Programs



A free service offered through the...

Delaware Children's Department
Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services



ECMHC Partnership

A partnership with providers of early childhood programs

The Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS) offers Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation as a free service and a partnership with Delaware early childhood education programs — with a focus on children 2-5 years of age and on programs with a significant proportion of children whose care is assisted through the state's Purchase of Care program.

All consultants are licensed mental health professionals with experience working in early child care settings. The commitment and collaboration of the center's director and staff, along with a child's parents or caregivers is essential to a successful partnership.



What is the ECMHC?

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

ECMHC is an effective strategy for addressing and supporting young children's social/emotional development in early care and education settings (Gillman & Shahar, 2006).

In recent years, there has been growing concern among many in the early care and education (ECE) community that increasing numbers of very young children are manifesting behavior problems. According to the Center for Mental Health in Schools (2005), the prevalence of clinically significant emotional and behavioral disabilities among young children ranges from 4 – 10%, with significantly higher estimates for children living in families with low income levels.

In very young children, these behaviors can be severe enough to warrant their removal from pre-school programs (Gillman 2005) — setting into motion a cascade of negative experiences.

ECMHC helps your program through:

- Providing a problem-solving and capacity building intervention to reduce incidents of disruptive behaviors;
- Building a collaborative relationship between mental health professionals, early childhood providers and parents;
- Coaching early education teachers in building positive relationships with children;
- Training staff on how to enhance social/emotional skills in children; and
- Reducing teacher and parent stress.



For more information on how your early childhood program can benefit from this service, call

302-781-3211.

