

SCHOOL SAFETY

ENVISIONING SAFER SCHOOLS

**Preschool to Prison Pipeline:
What's Happening Here?**

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AGENDA OVERVIEW

1. Welcome and introductions
2. What is Early Childhood Mental Health and the preschool to prison pipeline?
3. Defining the problem- what does the data and research tell us?
4. What can we do about it- promising and evidence-based best practices
5. Integration into programs and daily practices

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Take a few minutes to introduce yourself at your tables and choose one of these questions to reflect/ respond to.

1. In what ways does Early Childhood Mental Health show up in your work?

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WHAT IS EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH?

The developing capacity of infants, toddlers and young children to experience, manage, and express emotion; form close, secure relationships; and actively explore the environment and learn.

- Adapted from *ZERO TO THREE*
(www.zerotothree.com)



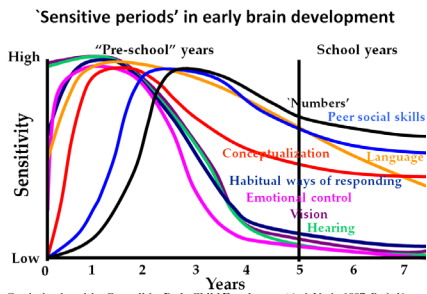
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EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

<https://youtu.be/L41k2p-YRCs>

5 | PRESENTATION TITLE HERE | ©2010 NCA of the USA

EARLY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

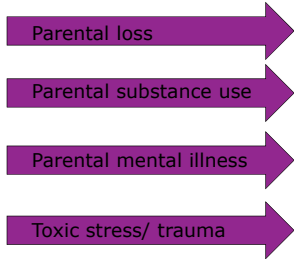


Graph developed by Council for Early Child Development (ref: Nash, 1997; Early Years Study, 1999; Shankoff, 2000.)

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PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS

- **9-14%** of children experience diagnosed Early Childhood Mental Health disorders (ZERO TO THREE, 2016)
- Up to **30%** of children living in concentrated low-income communities exhibit moderate to severe social, emotional or behavioral concerns (Barbarin, 2007)



- Sub-optimal development (physical, social, emotional, cognitive)
- Mental health/behavioral concerns
- Preschool expulsion

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WHAT IS PRESCHOOL EXPULSION?

What do exclusionary discipline practices look like in early childhood settings?

Examples of exclusionary practices in early childhood



In-School Suspension could look like...

Disciplining a child by sending the child out of the classroom, such as to the director's office.



Out-of-School Suspension could look like...

Asking a family to pick up their child early because of behavioral issues (e.g., biting, hitting, not following directions).



Expulsion could look like...

Telling a family that they will need to find another care arrangement/center because the child is not a "good fit" for the program or that the program can "no longer support" their toddler or preschooler.



"Soft" Expulsion could look like...

Asking the family repeatedly to pick their child up early because of behavior issues, requiring them to leave or miss work frequently.

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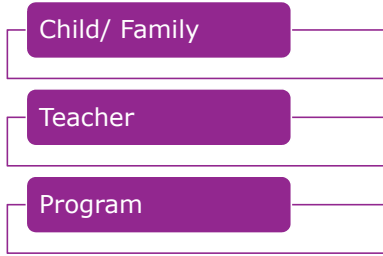
PREVALENCE AND DISPROPORTIONALITY

10% nationally; **3x** rates in k-12 system in state preschools



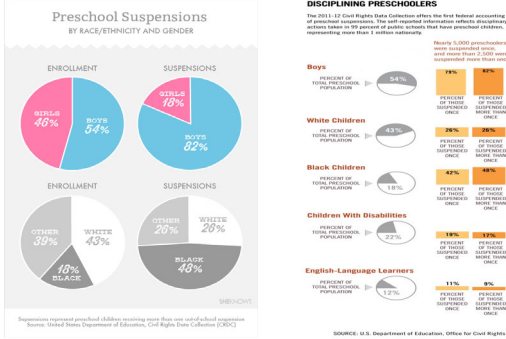
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DATA & RESEARCH: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



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DATA & RESEARCH: CHILD LEVEL FACTORS



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DATA & RESEARCH: TEACHER LEVEL FACTORS



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DATA & RESEARCH: ROLE OF IMPLICIT BIAS

Implicit Bias is...

Attitudes, Stereotypes, & Beliefs that can affect how we treat others.

Implicit bias is not intentional, but it can still impact how we judge others based on factors, such as:

- Race
- Ability
- Gender
- Culture
- Language

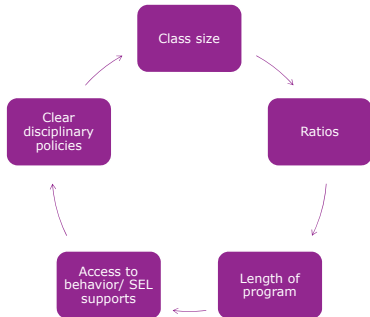
In early childhood settings, implicit biases can affect how providers perceive and respond to children, which can lead to unfair differences in the use of exclusionary discipline practices, such as suspension and expulsion.

Go to our center to learn about movement practices in early childhood and research on early childhood settings: www.naeyc.org

SRI Education
A member of the SRI network

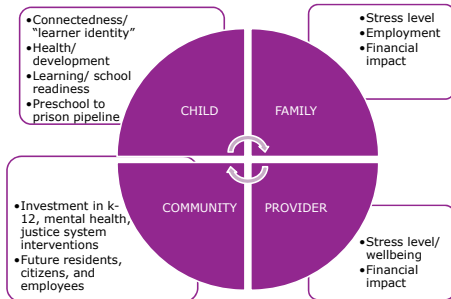
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DATA & RESEARCH: PROGRAM LEVEL FACTORS



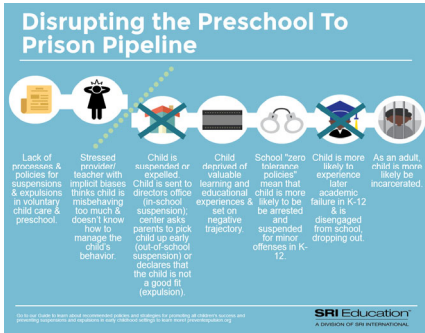
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RIPPLE EFFECT OF UNTREATED ECMH CONCERNS AND EXPULSION



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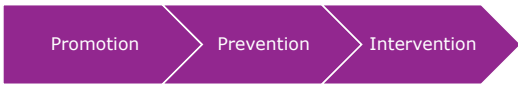
WHAT IS THIS PIPELINE?



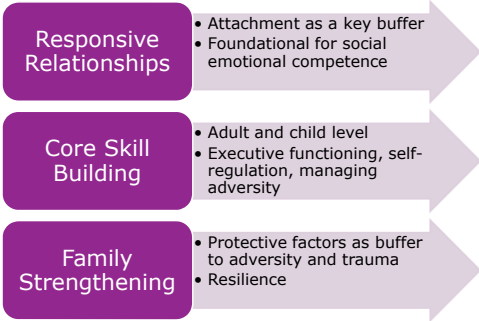
OK, SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT PRESCHOOL EXPULSION?



AND WHAT ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH?



AND WHAT ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH?



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TANGIBLE EXAMPLES

Responsive Relationships	Core Skill Building	Family Strengthening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions for parental mood disorders • Early screening and referral • Trauma informed service delivery systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent education programs • Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing protective factors in family serving programs • Integrating authentic family engagement in education settings

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FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROTECTIVE FACTORS



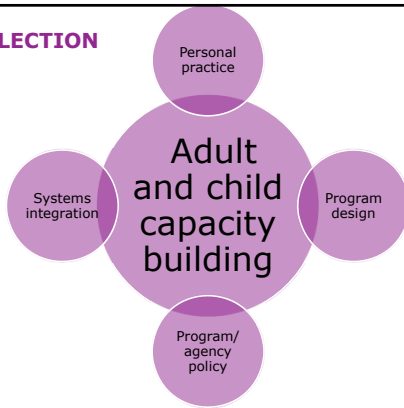
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ADULT CAPACITY AND SKILL BUILDING!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urU-a_Fs5Y



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REFLECTION



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PARTICIPANT TAKEAWAYS

Do you...

1. Have a deeper understanding of the relationship between Early Childhood Mental Health and the preschool to prison pipeline?
2. Have a sense of the data and research and recommendations related to preschool expulsion?
3. Have some ideas on how this connects to your work and how you may integrate some of these best practices?

THANK YOU

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