



**START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING**

PREVENTING SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

FINDING THE MEANING BEHIND A CHILD'S BEHAVIOR

Children's behavior is a message about what they need – and the skills they are working on. Our job as adults is to find the meaning behind a child's behavior.

It's also important that we think about our own actions and how we might contribute to a child's behavior.

When parents and child care providers work together to uncover what is behind a child's behavior, we can ensure that every child thrives.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S PROVIDER OFTEN.

When parents and providers have open and frequent communication, you can address behavior concerns as a team and support a child's strengths and challenges.

CHOOSE A LICENSED, QUALITY CHILD CARE PROGRAM.

Licensed programs have resources to help providers positively respond to children and address concerning behaviors.

WORK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR CHILD IS TRYING TO TELL YOU.

Children communicate what they need and how they feel through their actions. When we understand children's needs, we can positively address those needs together.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TYPES OF SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

THESE PRACTICES ARE CONSIDERED SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION:

- **In-school suspension** – separates or removes the child from the classroom or activity
- **Out-of-school suspension** – temporarily removes the child from the program
- **Expulsion** – permanently removes a child from the program
- **Soft-expulsion** – when a program becomes inconvenient for a family or unwelcoming to the point they must stop attending
- **Disenrollment** – permanently unenrolls a child from a program
- **Early pickup** – when a program requires a child to be picked up early

All child care programs are required to have clear behavior policies that explains how the program will respond to and find solutions for puzzling behavior.

WHY SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS ARE HARMFUL

When young children are suspended or expelled, they miss out on learning experiences that are important to help them prepare for success in kindergarten and beyond.

They also miss out on the opportunity to address their behavioral or developmental challenges. When children are suspended or expelled, the result is often that the children most in need of services don't receive them.

GET SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD

If you are worried that your child might be having a hard time, talk to your child's pediatrician.

Ask your provider if one of Colorado's Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists can help. Call [303.866.5948](tel:303.866.5948) or [1.800.799.5876](tel:1.800.799.5876) and ask to speak to the Early Childhood Mental Health Program Manager.

If you have concerns about a child care program, call the child care complaint line at [1.800.799.5876](tel:1.800.799.5876).