



Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

In Early Care and Education Sites

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) is a preventive intervention that teams mental health consultants with adults who work with young children and their families to improve children's social and emotional development. ¹

Young Children's healthy social and emotional development is critical to school readiness and positive long term outcomes. ²



Pre-kindergarten **children are expelled** for behavior problems **more than 3 times** as much as those in grades K-12 combined. ³



Consultants guide early childhood teachers and program administrators to influence change that fosters children's social and emotional development. Examples of consultation efforts include:



Observing in the classroom to enhance program strategies that support healthy social and emotional development.



Providing individualized supports to program directors and staff to help prevent staff turnover and maintain an effective workforce.



Supporting the screening process to support early identification of children at higher risk of social and emotional challenges.



Supporting referrals and follow-up process for children and families to community based services for early intervention.



Educating families and staff about healthy childhood social and emotional development.

Contact Montana Project LAUNCH:

Darla Dexter, Young Child Wellness Expert
Phone: 406-444-6956 Email: darla.dexter@mt.gov
Website: dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/montanaprojectlaunch

Sources:

1. Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc>)
2. Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/rs_ecmhc.pdf)
3. Foundation for Child Development (http://ziglercenter.yale.edu/publications/National%20Prek%20Study_expulsion%20brief_34775_284_5379_v1.pdf)