

Easterseals North Georgia

Early Education
Early Intervention Babies Can't Wait

Head Start, Early Head Start and Georgia PreK

- ▶ Comprehensive services: including medical, dental, social-emotional, disability, nutrition and family support services
- ▶ Within 45 days of enrollment children receive a Developmental screening, a social-emotional screening, vision and hearing screening and a home visit
- ▶ 60 days every child has an Individualized education plan
- ▶ Within 90 days physicals and dental exam and family partnership agreement.

ESNG Early Education and Care

- ▶ Serving 1523 children in 14 locations in 6 counties (4 rural counties in northeast Georgia)
- ▶ 100% of the children are living at 100% of the federal poverty level
(family of 4 = \$25,100)
- ▶ 30% of the children have a disability
- ▶ 11 % have a health problems such as chronic asthma, anemia, high lead levels, diabetes that need to be followed.
- ▶ 4 or more adverse childhood experiences
- ▶ 14-16% of children receive mental health services

Each year we see

- ▶ 70% Single mothers
- ▶ 70% working
- ▶ 17% of our families received services to address mental health challenges
- ▶ 32% of our families received emergency or crisis directed services related to domestic violence, substance abuse, legal issues

ESNG Early Childhood Mental Health

- ▶ 2005 started to notice any increasing number of children presenting with social-emotional challenges
 - ▶ Infants/toddlers presenting with failure to thrive, significant gastro-intestinal issues, constant crying , or listless and quiet
 - ▶ 3 & 4 yr. olds presenting with behavior problems
- ▶ Could not find community partners that served children under 5
- ▶ Our search began

What Research Tells Us

- ▶ “Young children’s social-emotional development and mental health influence every critical developmental task of the first five years, whether physical, cognitive, linguistic, or social-emotional. Positive social-emotional development and mental health provide the foundation for future development and learning.”
- ▶ “Significant adversity in early childhood including trauma, abuse, living with a parent with a substance abuse disorder, or being raised in persistent poverty, can cause toxic stress which disrupts a young child’s brain circuitry and other organ and metabolic systems. In the absence of protective factors such as a nurturing and responsive relationship with caregivers, these disruptions produce changes in the body and brain that lead to lifelong impairments in both physical and mental health.”
- ▶ Supportive relationships and positive learning experiences begin at home but can also be provided through a range of services with proven effectiveness factors. Babies’ brains require stable, caring, interactive relationships with adults - any way or any place they can be provided will benefit healthy brain development.
- ▶ “Science clearly demonstrates that, in situations where toxic stress is likely, intervening as early as possible is critical to achieving the best outcomes. For children experiencing toxic stress, specialized early interventions are needed to target the cause of the stress and protect the child from its consequences

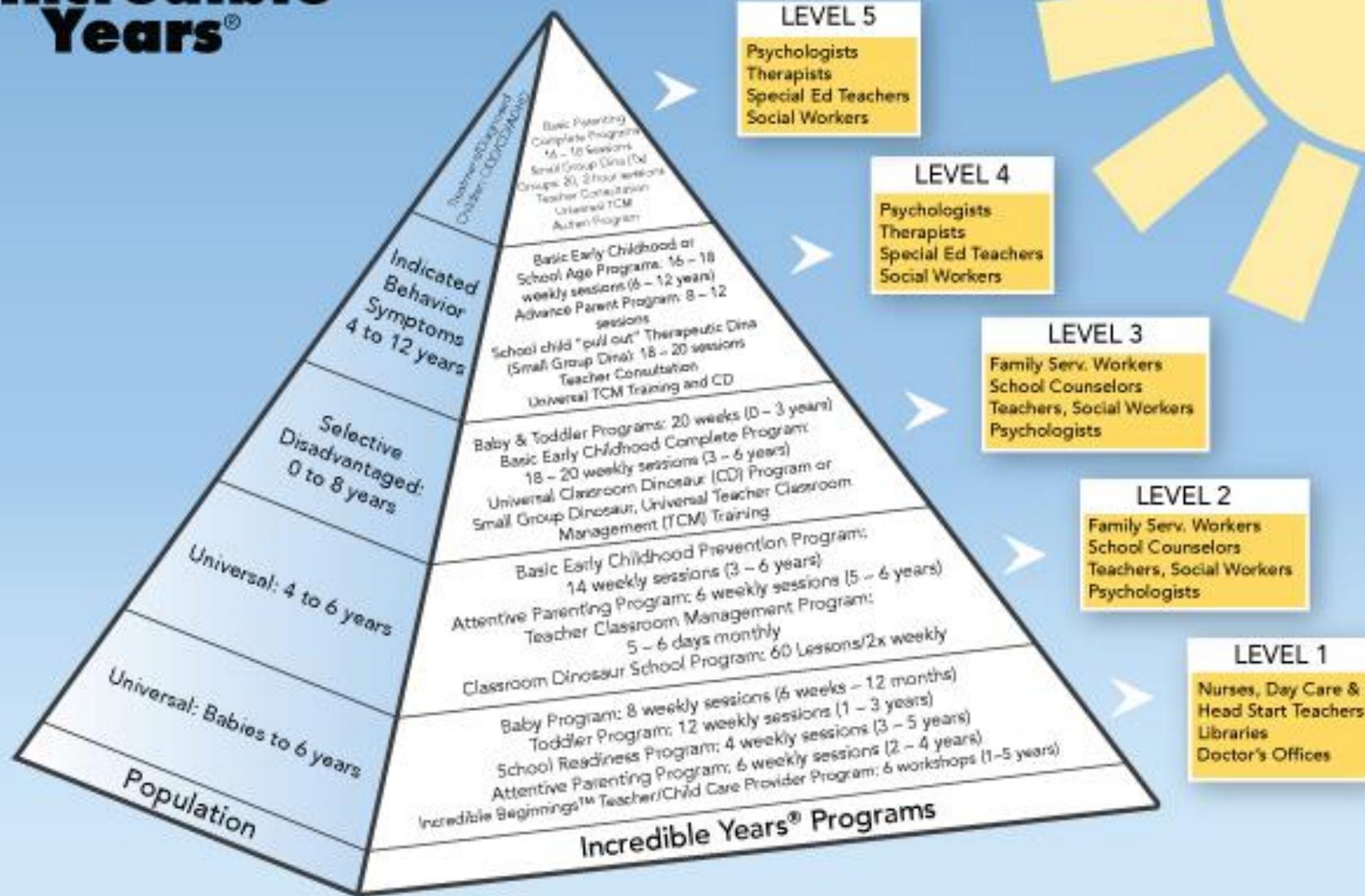
ESNG Early Childhood Mental Health Program

The Early Childhood Mental Health Program is a comprehensive set of services designed to promote healthy social and emotional development among children and families enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K programs. The Easter Seals North Georgia Mental Health Program:

- Provides early identification through screening
- Conducts follow-up assessments with those identified
- Implements The Incredible Years Attentive Parenting Program and the Incredible Years Small Group Treatment Program and Second Steps Supplemental Curriculum along with Pyramid and PBIS
- Evidenced Based Programs
- The program is designed to promote emotional and social competence and is designed to prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and emotional problems in young children ages 0 to 12 years old.

Incredible Years

- ▶ The Incredible Years Program has been given designations such as: “Exemplary,” “Promising,” “Proven,” and “Model” in review groups such as OJJDP, SAMHSA’s NREPP, Promising Practices Network, Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- ▶ Provides training and technical assistance/classroom coaching for teachers
- ▶ Mental Health Consultation
- ▶ Conducts small group treatment to improve children’s mental health (10-18 weeks)
- ▶ Works with parents to encourage and support social-emotional wellness for their children (12 weeks).
- ▶ A Georgia Licensed Professional Counselor manages, as well as treats, children, and families needing Mental Health Services. Also, we have four Master’s level Professional Counselor who are acquiring documented supervision toward full licensure .

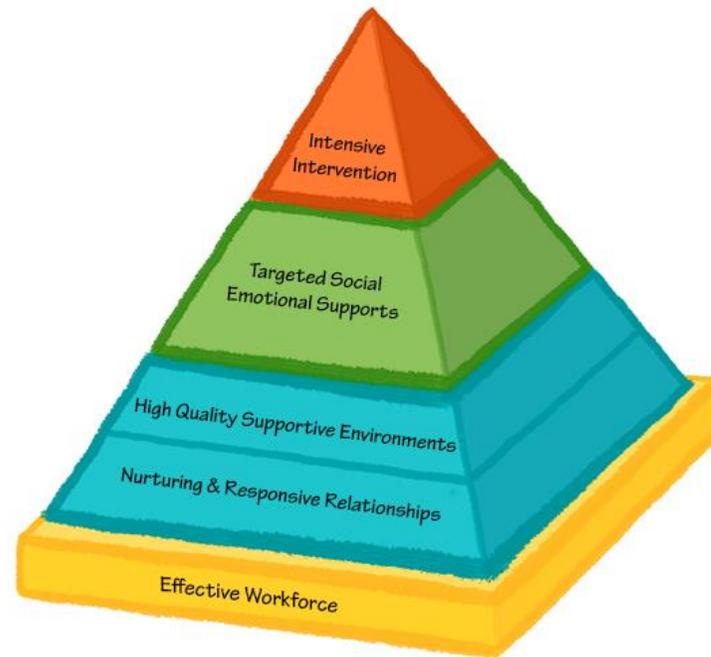


LEVELS OF INTERVENTION
According to population risk (ages 0-12 years)

Program Evaluation

- ▶ To evaluate the effectiveness of the Incredible Years Program, The Mental Health Team administers pre and post-tests:
 - ▶ The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)
 - ▶ Group leaders' evaluations of student progress toward goals
 - ▶ "Wally's Problem-Solving Test"
 - ▶ Parent Satisfaction Surveys
 - ▶ Teacher Satisfaction Surveys
- ▶ Throughout our 17 years of implementing our Incredible Years Program, typically initial DECA assessment indicates that 66% of children have a need in improving their Total Protective Factors (TPF), which gives an overall indication of each child's strengths related to resilience. This is the most reliable and valid overall indication of protective factors within the DECA. High scores on this scale are associated with children who are functioning well in preschool and other environments. By the end of treatment, 66% of children show TPF as "typical" or as "strength," with only 34% still showing this as an area of need. Similar improvements are seen in Initiative, Attachment/Relationships, Self-Regulation, and Behavioral Concern.

Tiers of the Pyramid Model



Head Start/Early Head Start

- ▶ Head Start served 24,038 children
- ▶ Early Head Start funded to serve 4,868 children
- ▶ 657,414 children in Georgia 0-4 years
- ▶ 178,000 children 0-5 living at 100% of poverty level

Babies Can't Wait

- ▶ Administer program for Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale
- ▶ Serve over 2,000 children birth-three per year
- ▶ All children receive an MCHAT
- ▶ Children 1st completed 4, 895 ASQs (286 DFACS referrals, 87 of those referred to BCW for evaluation.
- ▶ Providers trained in PBIS and PIWI

Policy Recommendations

- ▶ Establish cross-agency leadership for IECMH.
- ▶ Ensure Medicaid payment for IECMH services including IECMH consultation
- ▶ Develop a set of agreed-upon IECMH core competencies
- ▶ Train the workforce on IECMH.
- ▶ Embed IECMHC as a primary support in statewide Quality Rating and Improvement Systems.
- ▶ Embed IECMHC within a variety of programs serving children and families such as early intervention and home visiting