

Letter of Introduction

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to tell you that our center has chosen to participate in a program called BehaviorHelp, through Arkansas' Department of Human Services/Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE). The DCCECE shares our goal that all children we serve will be happy, healthy and ready for school. BehaviorHelp supports teachers with ideas to manage difficult behaviors (like hitting) that often occur in child care classrooms. Our goal is not to suspend or expel children for these behaviors because we want to help ALL children get ready for kindergarten. Together we can do it!

BehaviorHelp will provide a consultant to our center who will work with all of us on helping children build social-emotional skills. What are social-emotional skills? Social skills are those skills that help us get along with others. Emotional skills are those that help us understand and name our own feelings and then express them in a way that doesn't hurt anyone.

ALL children need to practice social and emotional skills. Those are hard skills for young children to learn. It takes a lot of practice and help from grown-ups! Sometimes children have behaviors (like hitting or kicking) that tell us they could benefit from extra practice.

The BehaviorHelp consultant will support all of us in this practice. How will it work? The consultant will visit our center and listen to concerns teachers (or parents) might have or problems that may have come up. The consultant will observe in the classroom and ask questions to learn how she can help. The consultant may join in some classroom activities designed to teach social and emotional skills. The goal of BehaviorHelp is to offer teachers new ideas for supporting all children. As always, individual work with your child will only take place with your knowledge and consent.

We welcome your questions about this partnership and hope you will feel free to check in with me or with your child's teacher at any time.

Sincerely,

Director