

BehaviorHelp PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

Your center has been referred for our BehaviorHelp Response Team (BHRT) to offer support and resources related to your expressed concerns relating to child behavior or classroom management. Below we describe the services that are available.

Overview of Onsite Support

The BehaviorHelp Response specialists are professionals with early childhood expertise. They partner with child care centers to share their knowledge of child development, best practices in the classroom, ways to promote social-emotional learning, and strategies to work with challenging behavior. There is **no cost** to your center. This support is funded by the State of Arkansas' Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Early Childhood (OEC). The staff of the OEC will work with your center director to determine the most appropriate services for your situation.

Services That May Be Offered

Classroom Technical Assistance: Many situations can be improved through technical assistance to strengthen the classroom environment. The BHRT specialist will visit your center and the first step will be to gather information about the classroom. This may include observing in the classroom and talking with the teacher and director. This may also include talking with other professionals working in your center. After gathering information, the specialist will make additional visits to offer various types of support, such as:

- Suggest classroom strategies to help manage challenging behaviors.
- Suggest ways to create a classroom environment that supports social and emotional learning.
- Offer information about training opportunities that might be useful.
- Share resources for teachers and parents.
- Consult with the director about center policies.
- Work to build on observation and documentation skills.
- Make referrals for additional, specialized technical assistance or training.

Mental Health Consultation: Sometimes more intensive support is needed to support teachers in working with individual children and families who have unique needs. In these cases, a Project Play mental health specialist will first review the case information and may make some initial observations. The specialist will obtain parents' agreement and gather additional information about the situation. This will include observing in the classroom, child screenings, and talking with the teacher, director, and families. This may also include talking with other professionals working with the child or family. After sufficient observation and information gathering, the specialist may:

- Complete a Prevention Plan with parent and teacher.
- Work with the teacher for up to 3 months to support implementation of Prevention Plan, reviewing progress regularly with parent and teacher.
- Continue classroom observation, providing feedback and support to the teacher.
- Meet with parent to facilitate communication with the teacher/director and consistency between home and school around individual interventions.
- Facilitate communication and collaboration with other service providers who may be involved with the classroom, child, or family.
- Make referrals for additional support for teachers, children, and families.

Working as a Team with OEC

The staff at your center, the BHRT specialist(s) and the OEC staff are all working together as a team. One goal of the BHRT team members is to promote good communication between parents, child care providers and the OEC staff. The specialist will discuss their work during team meetings. Reports about the BehaviorHelp process and progress will be available to the OEC staff. However, certain sensitive information about individual children or families may be kept private.

It is not the role of the specialist to actively look for licensing violations. That is the role of the Licensing Unit. Specialists will work with the child care center director to partner with the OEC licensing unit in cases where licensing concerns become apparent.

Child Care Center Director

Please indicate that you agree to the following during the course of our partnership:

- During the course of our partnership, frequent communication is vital to the success of this support. For example, we request that you:
 - Allow all BHRT specialists to observe center activities and collect information from teacher and/or families and other professionals,
 - Participate actively with the support efforts, by taking a role in supporting staff implementation of strategies,
 - Provide coverage for the specialist and teacher to have one on one meetings outside of the classroom,
 - Assist in arranging meetings with teachers, parents and/or other service providers as needed.
- Agree that no child will be suspended or expelled during the period of onsite support without following OEC policies and procedures. Procedures are available here: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Behavior-Help-Memo-July-2021-Final.pdf>
- Discuss any new behavior concerns with your assigned BHRT (either TA and/or Project Play) prior to making new referrals to BehaviorHelp, as we may be able to find ways to support your needs without a new referral.

Name of Center

Director/Administrator Signature

Date

BHRT Specialist Signature

Date