

CHAMPS Program

Service Plan



CHAMPS

Who Are We

Children Arriving Mentally Prepared for School (CHAMPS) is funded by the Maryland State Department of Education as part of the statewide Early Mental Health Consultation for Children Birth - Six. CHAMPS provides culturally sensitive and primarily indirect services for children birth through six in early education settings within Anne Arundel County. Services are designed to invoke changes in the behaviors of caregivers and to assist in the design and development of a social and emotional friendly environment. CHAMPS consultants collaborate with administrators, staff, family members, and caregivers who intervene directly with children in early education programs, child care centers, family child care programs and home settings.

The consultant does not “fix” the problem or the child’s behavior in lieu of those who provide regular care for the child. CHAMPS is intended to promote social and emotional development in children and transform children’s challenging behaviors.

Consultation services include:

- Conduct individual child observations
- Design and implement program practices responsive to the identified needs of an individual child
- Support staff with individual child behavior and classroom management
- Provide one-on-one modeling or coaching for individual child support
- Advise and assist staff in linking to community resources and services
- Offer training on behavior management techniques
- Provide one-on-one modeling for individual child support
- Educate parents on children’s mental health issues
- Refer parents for community resources and services
- Conduct home visits
- Advocate for parents
- Support parents in helping the child

Consultation is provided to:

- Licensed Child Care Centers – includes Directors and Staff
- Licensed Family Child Care providers
- Parents/Guardians of a child in either of the above child care settings

Services are not provided to:

- Child care programs and/or homes where the child is already receiving direct services (i.e. Infants & Toddlers, Child Find, Community-Based, IFSP, IEP, Psychologist, or any other specialists).
- Unlicensed child care programs

CHAMPS Partnership Agreement

Dear _____

Date _____

Thank you for your referral for behavior intervention services to the Arundel Child Care Connections CHAMPS Program. We are pleased to be partners with you in promoting healthy social and emotional growth in the children in your care.



CHAMPS

As behavior interventionists, we:

- Assess a child's social-emotional development, while taking a close look at behavior issues.
- Help create and implement new behavior strategies.
- Provide materials for the child care setting and for the child's home that reinforce skills we are targeting and behaviors we are addressing.
- Reinforce the provider/teacher in her role.
- Facilitate age-appropriate social and emotional growth.
- Provide mental health information to providers/teachers and parents, including mental health resources in the community
- Work with the child to address behavior concerns and to promote social-emotional growth.
- Provide weekly social/emotional class lessons as needed.

However, we will not be:

- acting as extra staff at a child care program.
- diagnosing, though we can offer insights on what we think is going on with a child.
- "fixing" a child's behavior in a day or two, or even a week; progress takes time. When we implement a strategy, we expect the strategy to be used consistently and extensively (not just once or twice) in order for it to be effective.
- Continuing to offer services if providers/ Center Administration are not "on board" or in compliance with recommendations.

Ours is a brief intervention model, providing services up to 12 weeks per child. However, the length of services will be determined on a case-by-case basis. We encourage providers not to dismiss a child until we have been able to work with him/her for at least four weeks. Please note: Our work is confidential. We will discuss a child's progress only with those whom the parent or guardian has authorized. We encourage child care providers to do the same.

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns.

Director's/Provider's Signature

Print Name

ACCC/ECMHA Signature

Print Name