

Missouri Children’s Division Policy Statement on Expulsion for Child Care Subsidy Providers

The Missouri Children’s Division recognizes the importance of children’s social-emotional and behavioral health. We believe high quality child care and positive experiences nurture social-emotional and behavioral health. Exclusionary practices, such as expulsion and suspension, are negative experiences that hinder children’s development and learning. Therefore, it is our policy to work toward eliminating expulsion and suspension practices in Missouri’s subsidized child care settings.

The Children’s Division Early Childhood and Prevention Services Section will support providers and parents by:

- Raising awareness about expulsion, suspension, and other exclusionary disciplinary practices in child care settings.
- Develop a goal-driven process for improvement that is informed by a coordinated data system across early childhood sectors.
- Invest in the workforce development system by assisting providers in establishing preventative disciplinary policies that limit or eliminate the use of expulsion and suspension and promote the use of evidence-based practices.
- Reviewing and updating policies regarding program quality that are specifically targeted to both increase overall quality of early learning services and reduce or eliminate expulsions, suspensions, and other exclusionary discipline practices.

Recommendations for Subsidized Child Care Settings:

Child care providers have a goal of ensuring that all children’s social-emotional and behavioral health are fostered in an appropriate high-quality child care programs, working toward eliminating expulsion and suspension practices across all child care settings.

It is recommended that subsidized child care programs:

- Develop and clearly communicate appropriate policies that are implemented consistently and without bias or discrimination across the diversity of young children represented in child care settings.
- Develop and clearly communicate preventative guidance and discipline practices
- Develop and clearly communicate expulsion, and suspension policies
- Programs will create positive climates and focus on prevention; develop clear appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences to address challenging behavior; and ensure fairness, equity, and continuous improvement.
- Access technical assistance to prevent expulsion and suspension through the United4Children’s inclusion specialist at www.united4children.org or 800-467-2322 ext. 17