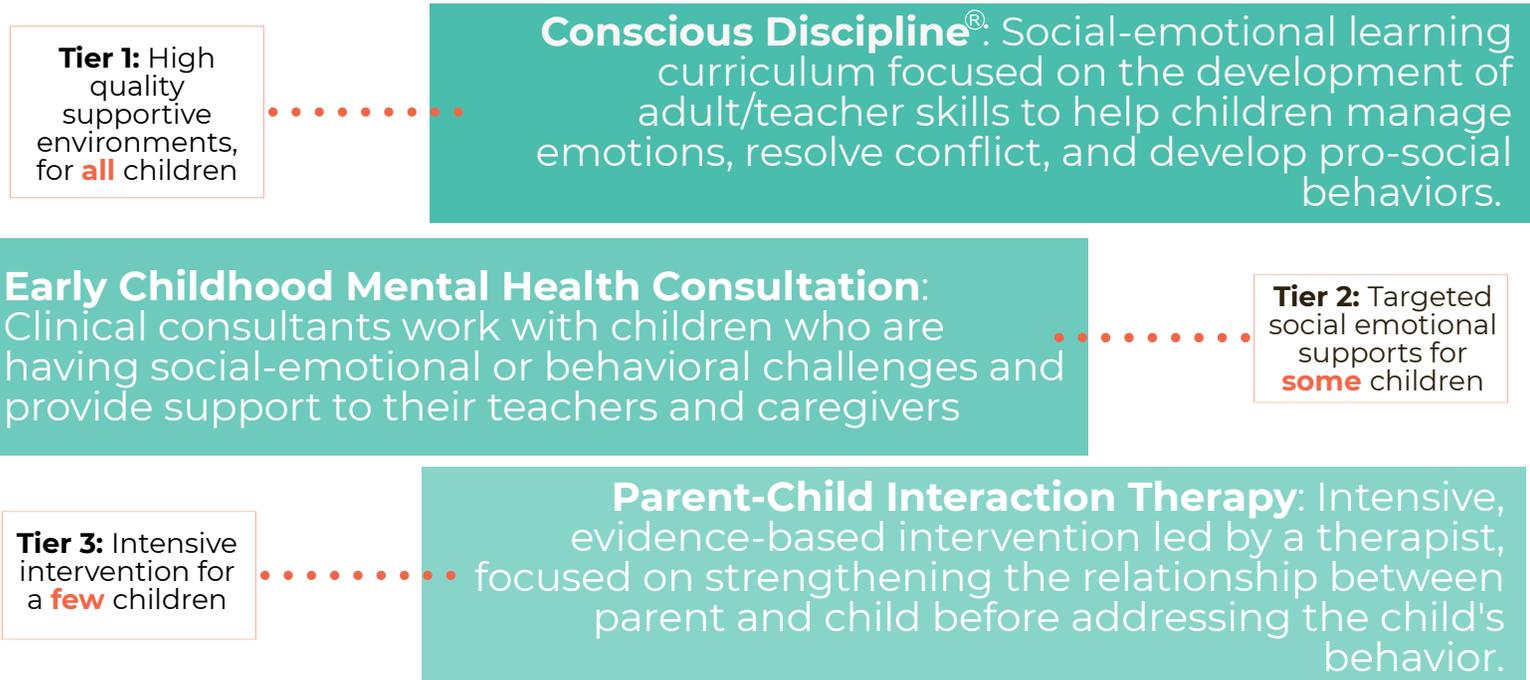


The SOURCE Early Childhood Initiative

The focus of the Early Childhood Initiative is to increase access to mental health and caregiver support services for young children (ages 0-6) who have, or are at risk for, mental health challenges. It builds on a tiered public health approach to promote social emotional development to all young children through their caregivers.

Intervention Tiers: All children benefit from a universal approach. If further help is needed, they have access to higher levels of intervention.



At the base, an effective childcare workforce, where systems and polices promote and sustain the use of evidence-based practices.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants work with childcare sites across Elkhart County to strengthen implementation of Conscious Discipline® and provide programmatic and child-specific consultation to parents, caregivers, and childcare providers. Survey results from Spring 2020 are presented below.

2

Early childhood consultants working with early childhood providers to provide support and training

9

Early childhood sites working with The SOURCE consultants to implement Conscious Discipline®

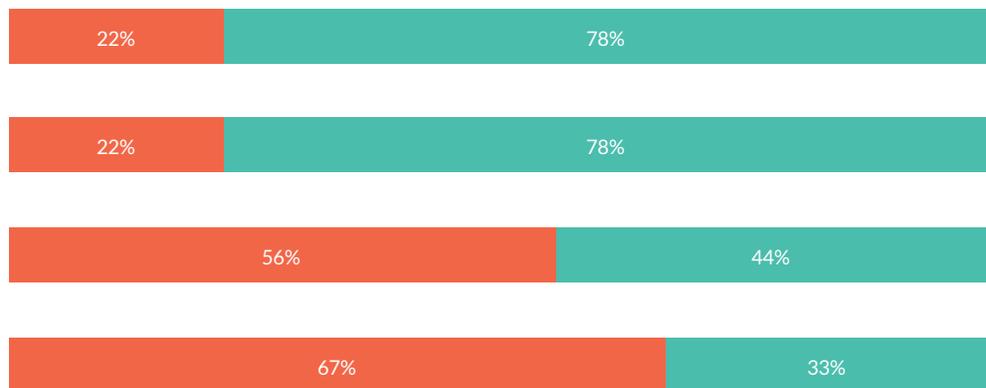
60+

Early childhood classrooms have implemented Conscious Discipline® skills and strategies

1,000+

Children are in classrooms that are utilizing Conscious Discipline® skills and strategies

1. I regularly go to the consultant when I need help with particular children or families.
2. The consultant is able to work effectively with all families, including families with non-traditional structures or diverse backgrounds and/or non-English speaking families.
3. Our mental health consultant services help families know how to cope with children's challenging behaviors.
4. Our mental health consultation services help staff to feel less stress.



■ Somewhat Agree ■ Strongly Agree

ECMHC Survey Responses

What impact has Conscious Discipline® had within your school or with your teachers/parents?

"It has encouraged us to respond in a more thoughtful and calm way. It has also provided additional tools to be able to build connections."

"I have seen glimpses of the potential in the children using it on their own. I have personally gained a lot from it because I am able to approach the situation in a much more calm manner and help the child talk about their feelings and actions."

"I think the most obvious area that its helped impact would be teachers understanding the brain states. Their reaction to "bad behavior" is more positive, and they're more patient and understanding."

"It has given the classes that are consistent [with implementation] a better sense of direction in their teaching approach."

"She meets with teachers and creates a plan to help individual children be more successful in class. The consultant helps parents and teachers get on the same page."

"Our families are hesitant to accept help from outside sources, but once they have met our consultant they feel more comfortable with her working closely with their family."

"What does your mental health consultant do that is most helpful for children and families?"

"I appreciate her willingness to come and observe classrooms, and meet with teachers to discuss their concerns."

"She provides advice and practical strategies for teachers."

"She meets with parents and staff to discuss ways to improve behavior and provide a connection with community resources."

"She is the best at finding the positive in every situation and building off of that."



Preschool Intervention & Referral Team

The Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT) is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, problem-solving team currently comprised of cross-sectoral organizations that helps early childhood educators and families in developing and implementing intervention strategies to meet the needs of preschoolers in classrooms and home settings who have shown evidence of learning, behavioral, or health difficulties.

In fall 2020, PIRT will be opening up to the community, allowing for early childhood service providers to sign up to attend PIRT to gain insights and build support.

What do partners appreciate about PIRT?

- ★ "PIRT supports our passion for early childhood."
- ★ "It provides opportunities to examine children's behavioral struggles together... and develop a toolbox of strategies to support the important work of teachers in helping these children."
- ★ "Collaboration. It takes a village and sometimes simple ideas get announced and processed in difficult situations."
- ★ "It is humbling to see how many people are sharing their talents to help our families. Early childhood can be like an island and PIRT helps shore up each other."
- ★ "The collaborative nature of PIRT and learning experiences with different age levels and voices. It's exciting to see that this is starting early."
- ★ "The extra information on how to help cross-culturally."
- ★ "Finding out how children facing expulsion can get the help they need and be supported by the team."