

Cabarrus County NC-Pre Kindergarten

Local Guidelines

Prevention of Suspension/Expulsion Plan 2021-2022

In order to comply with NC Pre-K Guidelines that every effort be made to maintain the child's enrollment and participation in the NCPK classroom, the Cabarrus County Local Committee has adopted policies to be implemented in Cabarrus County NCPK classrooms. This is to be used in conjunction with Appendix E of the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance and NC Child Care Rule .3017.

Unique and challenging behaviors in preschool children can usually be attributed to a number of factors including but not limited to developmental delays, early childhood trauma or other environmental factors that affect a child's social and emotional development. In an effort to make early identification of potential delays and speed up the process of getting needed supports in place, all children will receive a Dial-4 Developmental Screening prior to being placed in a NCPK classroom. In addition, NCPK staff will be required to receive training in social-emotional classroom support programs such as Conscious Discipline and/or Incredible Years and implement the components of these programs in the NCPK classroom. When an individual child starts demonstrating challenging behaviors that impede that child's participation in the NCPK Classroom, the following steps are to be followed to insure the child's continued placement:

1. For the first 6 weeks of school, teachers shall observe the child to identify what may be triggering the behavior. During this time, the teacher will plan, implement and record results of instructional modifications and/or differentiated strategies used to support the child throughout the school day.
2. Teachers should seek additional supports to include, but not be limited to, the assistance of local Behavioral Specialists through CCRI, Thompsons or other local resources. These and other strategies to support the child should be documented including the child's progress for at least 6 weeks.
3. Document all ongoing contact with the family of a child who displays concerning behaviors or unique needs (informal conversations, car rider line, etc).
4. If behaviors have not improved with new strategies, the teacher communicates concerns to site administrator and completes the Early Childhood Behavioral Engagement and Developmental Needs Report in appendix E of the NC Pre-K guidelines.

The site administrator schedules a formal parent conference to include the Contract Administrator and local LEA Exceptional Children Preschool staff. Site administrators will share the Developmental Needs Report of what has been implemented with the Contract Administrator and the EC Preschool Staff.

5. At parent conference, discuss concerns and observations. Address the strategies used over the last 6 weeks. Collaboratively develop a Home/School Action Plan that parents and teachers will each implement. Discuss with family potential referrals for resources. See 'Other Resources' listed in Appendix E of the NC Pre-K Guidelines.
6. NC Pre-K Teacher and Site administrator will document implementation of the strategies outlined in the home/school action plan, including schedule changes, extra staffing and other individual modifications indicated in the plan. Site documentation must show that strategies agreed to on the Home/School action plan are being fully implemented and the results. This documentation is to be submitted to the Contract Administrator within 2 weeks of the meeting.
7. Follow up with the family within one week of the parent conference. Have they contacted the recommended resources? Are they following the Home/School action plan? What are the next steps that they need to complete for referrals to outside agencies?
8. If behaviors persist after two weeks with little or no improvement, site staff will coordinate a meeting with site administrator, parent, teacher, and contract administrator to discuss additional ideas and resources.
9. If behaviors persist without improvement, contract administrator, site administrator and teacher will meet to formulate assistance request from the NC Pre-K Policy Consultant for guidance on next steps.