

CONSULTATION IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

Recent studies have confirmed what we in the child care field have known for some time: more young children are exhibiting challenging behavior, families with children in child care are experiencing more stress, and providers are feeling more pressed to provide services for which they are not fully prepared. One tool child care center directors have at their disposal is child care consultation.



Before taking the difficult step of removing a child from your center, try using a consultant.

WHAT IS CHILD CARE CONSULTATION?

DEFINITION: An opportunity to have a trained consultant visit a facility on a regular basis to support the staff in dealing with children and families under stress and help to maintain a more stable and stress-free setting.

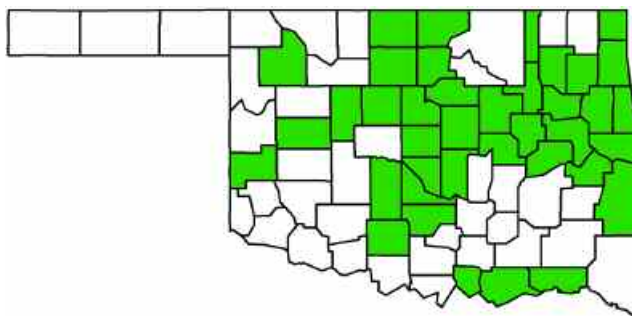
PURPOSE: Child care consultation seeks to accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- Maintain children in child care who are in danger of being expelled.
- Support staff that care for children.
- Connect staff and families to resources.
- Assist with room arrangement and program planning.

- Model positive behavior and guidance techniques.
- Model prevention by showing staff how to promote well being in children.
- Offer observation and referral when necessary.
- Be available to families of children in child care through consultation and parent meetings.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Services are free to facilities in the eligible counties thanks to a partnership between OKDHS, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



■ Eligible Counties

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION . . .

Contact Dale Wares at the OKDHS Division of Child Care, 1-800-347-2276, or Fran Morris at 1-405-525-2737. The Warmline at 888-574-5437 can also be contacted.