

Preschool Expulsion & Suspension

ALAMEDA COUNTY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM

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What is the problem?

“Young children are being expelled from preschool and child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors such as aggression, tantrums, and noncompliance.”

Source: Zero to Three

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/preventing-expulsion-from-preschool-and-child-care>

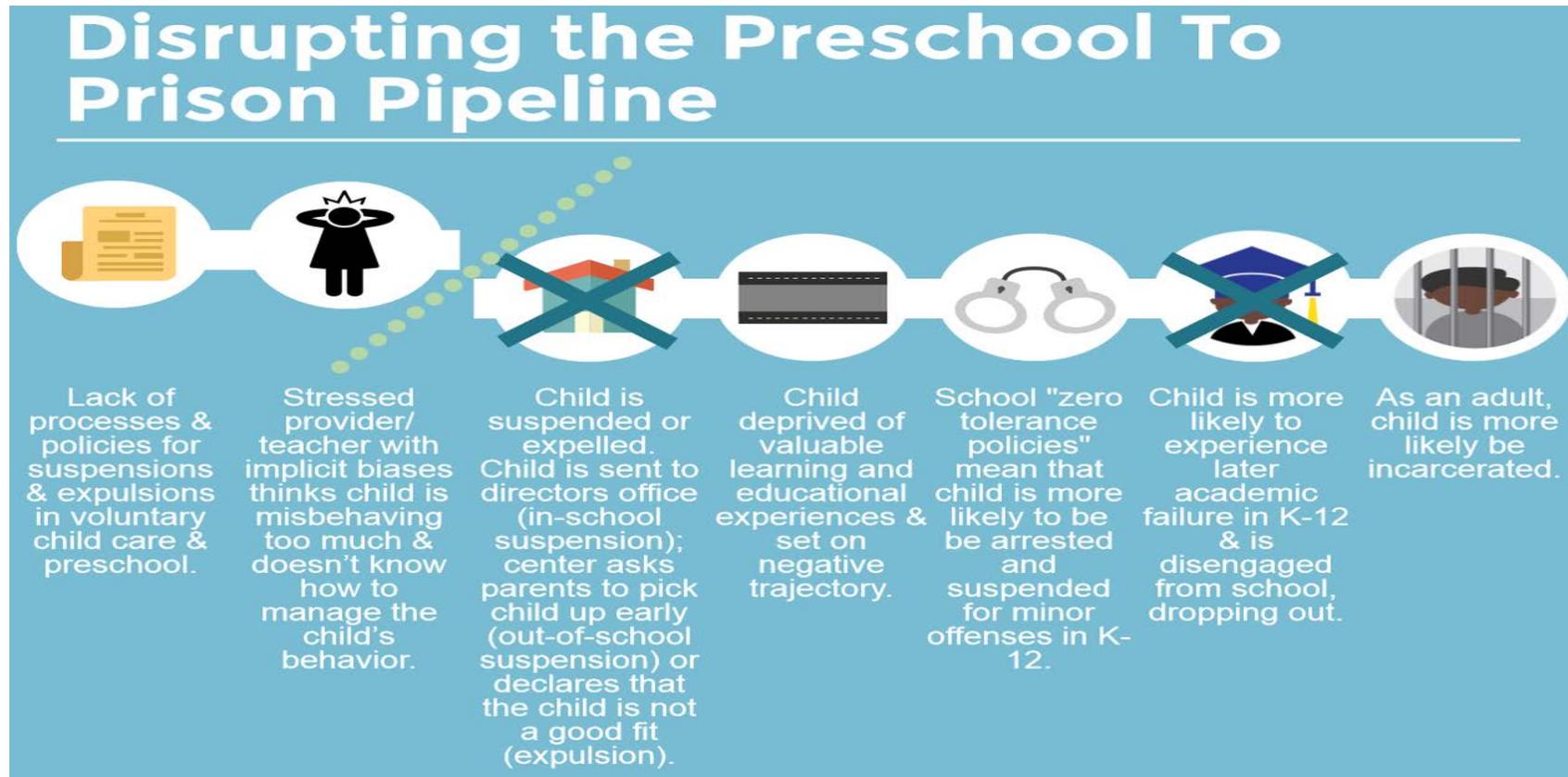
What is the Problem? (2)



Why It Matters...

- High-quality preschool lays the foundation for a child's educational career.
- Preschool is where children are learning how to self-regulate, make friends, communicate, and express their wants and needs while preparing for their educational career within the K-12 system.
- If children do not have the behavioral and social-emotional skills needed to effectively participate in preschool programs, they are missing critical opportunities to grow and learn.
- Teachers and parents are often the “first responders” to address challenging behaviors and need knowledge, resources and support to nurture positive social-emotional development as a foundation of learning.
- **Source: Center Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes, March 2017 Policy Report *Information and Resources to Assist States in Developing Policy on Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion***

Disrupting the Preschool Prison Pipeline



Phases in "Disrupting the Preschool to Prison Pipeline": 1) Lack of processes and policies for suspensions and expulsions in voluntary child care and preschool. 2) Stressed provider/ teacher with implicit biases thinks child is misbehaving too much, and doesn't know how to manage the child's behavior. 3) Child is suspended or expelled. Child is sent to director's office (in-school suspension); center asks parents to pick child up early (out-of-school suspension) or declares that the child is not a good fit (expulsion). 4) Child deprived of valuable learning and educational experiences and set on negative trajectory. 5) School "zero tolerance policies" mean that child is more likely to be arrested and suspended for minor offenses in k-12. 6) Child is more likely to experience later academic failure in K-12 and is disengaged from school, dropping out. 7) As an adult, child is likely to be incarcerated.

Passage of AB 752: Reducing Preschool Expulsion

AB 752 establishes a process modeled after the United States Department of Health and Human Services guidelines to prevent children from being unnecessarily expelled or unenrolled in the California State Preschool Program and other child and developmental care services.

Source: AB 752 Fact Sheet, March 2017

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Attitudes, Stereotypes, & Beliefs
that can affect how we treat others.

Implicit bias is not intentional, but it can still impact how we judge others based on factors, such as:



Race



Ability



Gender



Culture



Language

In early childhood settings, implicit biases can affect how providers perceive and respond to children, which can lead to unfair differences in the use of exclusionary discipline practices, such as suspension and expulsion.

Implicit Bias is attitudes, stereotypes, and beliefs that can affect how we treat others. Implicit bias is not intentional, but it can still impact how we judge others based on factors, such as race, culture, ability, language, and gender. In early childhood settings, implicit biases can affect how providers perceive and respond to children, which can lead to unfair differences in the use of exclusionary discipline practices, such as suspension and expulsion.

Needed Supports for Successful Implementation

1. Policy Guidelines – Program & Classroom Level

2. Funding:

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant
Behaviorist

3. Capacity Building for Early Care & Education Professionals

Unconscious/Implicit Bias

Culturally responsive & relevant trauma sensitive caregiving

4. Triadship System Support – children, families & ECE professionals