

# PROMOTING THE SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN: A TENNESSEE COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE

CSEFEL / Team Tennessee

**Team Tennessee's Goal:** *To promote the social and emotional development of children, **birth-five years**, through a cross agency collaborative professional development system, including community based training, continuing education and higher education, that fosters and sustains the state-wide, high-fidelity use of the Pyramid Model integrated with other relevant Tennessee efforts.*

## THE PYRAMID MODEL

The Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices developed by two national federally-funded research and training centers: The Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) funded by the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care / Administration for Children and Families and the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI) funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Based on evaluation data over the last five years, the Pyramid Model provides a sound framework for early care and education systems. Extensive training materials, videos, and print resources have been developed to help states, communities and programs implement the model.

### What are the Parts of the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model builds upon a tiered public health approach to providing universal supports to all children to promote wellness, targeted services to children who need more support, and intensive services to children who need them.

We depict our tiered approach as a pyramid with a:

- **Yellow Foundation:** The foundation for all of the practices in the pyramid are the **systems and policies** necessary to ensure a workforce able to adopt and sustain these evidence-based practices.
- **Blue Tier: Universal supports** for all children through nurturing and responsive relationships and high quality environments.
- **Green Tier: Prevention** which promotes practices that teach targeted social emotional strategies to prevent problems.
- **Red Tier: Intervention** which supports practices that focus on children who need individualized intervention when the child's behavior does not respond to practices from the lower levels of the pyramid



**Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL) provides technical assistance to a multi-agency Tennessee collaborative leadership group to support and ensure state-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model. The leadership group includes representatives from:**

- TN Department of Education/Office of Early Learning and Special Education/Office of Early Childhood
- TN Head Start State Collaboration Office
- TN Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)
- TN Department of Health: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
- TN Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- TN Department of Human Services/Child Care Licensing and Infant and Toddler Initiatives
- TN Institutions of Higher Education
- TN Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- TN Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC).
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services/Office of Child Safety
- Liaisons to CSEFEL
  - Dr. Mary Louise Hemmeter, CSEFEL Principal Investigator
  - Dr. Matt Timm, CSEFEL Key Consultant

### Where Can I Find More Information?

**Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) –**  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>

**Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI) -**  
<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

**Teaching Tools for Young Children with Challenging Behavior -**  
[http://challengingbehavior.org/do/resources/teaching\\_tools/ttyc.htm](http://challengingbehavior.org/do/resources/teaching_tools/ttyc.htm)

**Tucker the Turtle book & other materials -**  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/resources/strategies.html#teachingskills>

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