

# Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PW PBIS) for Young Children

"Aaron has been in my office every day this week for a "break." There has to be something else we can do!"

- Early Childhood Director

"I'm worried about the child who sits in the corner and never plays with others."

- Stressed teacher

"That child bit my child and I want to know what you are going to do about it!"

- Angry parent

## Do any of these statements sound familiar?

Then it might be time for you to investigate the Pyramid Model Framework and its implementation through Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PW PBIS).



## WHY would you want to consider PW PBIS?

### Some of the benefits of implementing PW PBIS are:

- Development of positive climate throughout the program
- Increase of staff and family satisfaction
- Decrease in staff turnover
- Increase in staff confidence and competence in the classroom
- Growth in children's social-emotional skills
- Decrease in challenging behavior
- Decreased reliance on external experts
- Reduction and eventual elimination of suspension and expulsion



### Here are some of the things that people implementing PW PBIS are saying:

*"We have seen some amazing changes in the overall feeling of community in our center. We feel that our teachers now have a sense of support and an outlet for frustrations and problems. The children are benefiting from the reliability and consistency of our schedules, and the emotional support they are receiving from the teachers."*

- Early Childhood Director

*"They're learning to be kind, compassionate and attentive little humans!"*

- Parent

*"This (PBIS) is a success because my child responds better to this method than anything else I have tried. I have seen, and so many others, a HUGE difference in him since he has started school. I figured if it works there, why not try it at home. Less yelling, less arguing, and home just seems easier and happier."*

- Parent

*"What I love about PBIS is seeing the progress that children make in being able to engage in positive relationships, express their feelings, identify the problem, and choose a solution. Also, seeing families model similar expectations and being a part of the experience."*

- Teacher

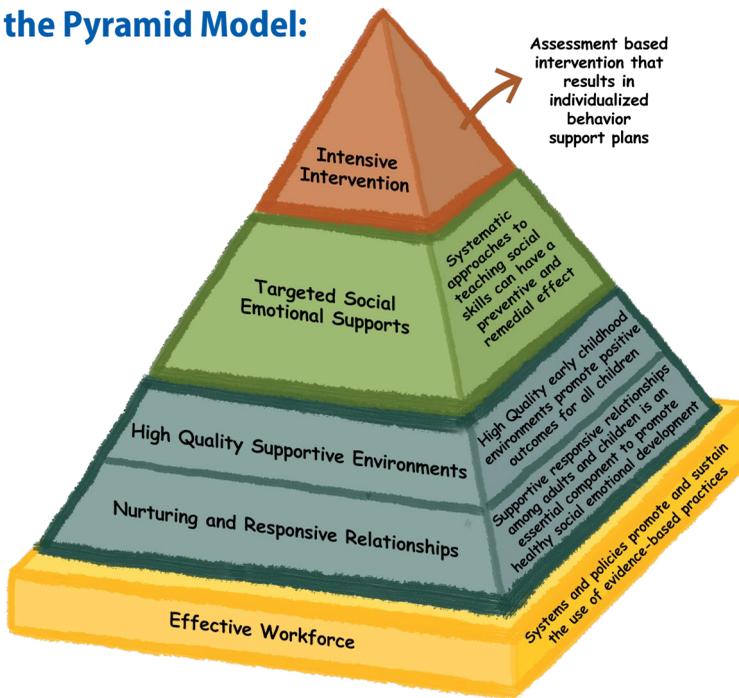
## Ok, that sounds great, but first: What exactly is PW PBIS?

### WHAT is PW PBIS?

Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PW PBIS) is an evidence-based approach to addressing challenging behaviors in young children. The emphasis is on promoting social-emotional skills and on preventing and addressing challenging behaviors. This is accomplished by using a tiered approach, which is referred to as the Pyramid Model.



## This is the Pyramid Model:



The Pyramid Model provides guidance about practices that have been shown to build children's social-emotional skills and prevent challenging behaviors from happening. It does not focus only on the children with challenging behaviors, but addresses the needs of ALL children throughout your program. Practices used are well-supported by research.

The first two levels of the Pyramid describe practices that are essential for the prevention of challenging behaviors and the promotion of social competence in all children: development of positive relationships with children, families, and staff; and practices that prevent challenging behaviors, support child engagement, and support social skills.

We know that some children will still need additional supports, and so there are practices in the Pyramid that provide targeted social emotional supports, such as those that facilitate the development of specific friendship skills, and those that assist children in learning how to problem solve and manage feelings of upset.

When those layers of support are provided, 95-97 percent of the children will have the social-emotional skills needed and will not engage in challenging behaviors. For those few children who still need additional support, the Pyramid addresses this through the development of intensive individualized interventions.

PW PBIS is not only about using the Pyramid Model, however. In addition to the use of the Pyramid, programs develop systems to support the implementation of PW PBIS, and use data to guide their practices and implementation. These three components – data, systems, and practices – are essential components of PBIS.



## HOW do you find out more about PBIS?

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**Do you want to learn even more about PW PBIS?** Check out this interactive experience: [www.eita-pa.org/sedevelopment](http://www.eita-pa.org/sedevelopment)

**Does this sound overwhelming?** Do not worry, as there are supports in Pennsylvania to help you accomplish this three to five year process of implementation.

The PAPBS Network ([papbs.org](http://papbs.org)) is a system that was developed to help programs like yours implement PW PBIS throughout your program.

## WHAT supports does the PAPBS Network provide?

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- Training opportunities (statewide, regional and virtual) on how to implement PBIS program wide.
- Contact with a regional facilitator to cheer you on and support your implementation throughout the process.
- Access to databases that will organize your data to better guide your implementation.

## WHO can I contact for more information?

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Each region in Pennsylvania has a regional facilitator. You may email the regional facilitators at the following addresses to get your journey in PBIS started:

**Eastern Region:** Julia Slater / [jslater@pattankop.net](mailto:jslater@pattankop.net)

**Central Region:** Aimee Newswanger / [anewswanger@pattan.net](mailto:anewswanger@pattan.net)

**Western Region:** Lisa Gragg / [lgragg@pattanpgh.net](mailto:lgragg@pattanpgh.net)  
or DeVoka Gordon / [dgordon@pattanpgh.net](mailto:dgordon@pattanpgh.net)

