



## ***The Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health***

The National TA Center addresses the needs of children and adolescents with mental health disorders and their families. One particular focus area is on young children, ages birth through five.

**Mission of the Early Childhood Initiative: To assist states and communities in the development of a system of care that is child- and family-centered, relationship-based, developmentally appropriate, culturally competent, coordinated, and community-based, in order to meet the mental health needs of all young children and their families. Individualized, evidence-based services are provided by a well-trained work force.**

### **Early Childhood Mental Health**

The Center provides training and technical assistance that promotes: collaboration, change, and transformation of siloed, restrictive systems and services; the adoption of promising and evidence-based practices for infants, young children, their families and providers in their neighborhoods and communities; the importance of a strong family voice in service and policy development; the infusion of inclusive mental health services and perspectives into existing programs and initiatives; and the development of a well-prepared work force.

With our partner, the Georgetown University National Center on Cultural Competence, TA is provided in a manner that is culturally and linguistically competent, targeting change at the policy, structure and practice levels and helping to address health and mental health disparities in our country.

The TA Center's strategies for accomplishing these goals include a multifaceted approach of 1) coalition building, collaboration, and liaison with key agencies, organizations and systems; 2) consensus development around effective practice and the translation of research and evaluation data into practice; 3) materials/ knowledge development and dissemination; 4) summits, meetings, institutes, academies, and interagency strategic planning; and 5) training, on-site consultation and information brokering.

### **Recent Early Childhood Mental Health Activities:**

- Development of mental health consultation materials
- Early childhood policy academies
- Technical assistance and facilitation to states planning an early childhood mental health system of care
- Course-work on early childhood mental health
- Collaborative Policy Maker's Summit
- Long-distance supervision of mental health consultants
- Research on best practices/programs that integrate primary care, mental health and substance abuse services for children birth through five and their families
- Mental health consultation to childcare programs
- Evaluation of mental health consultation programs
- Pediatric clinic for children with challenging behaviors
- Conference call series on early childhood mental health
- Collaborative summit on infant mental health
- TA to system of care grantees

The National TA Center for Children's Mental Health is part of the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development --- a division of the Department of Pediatrics. Since 1984, the National TA Center has been funded by the federal Center for Mental Health Services, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

### **Select Publications:**

- ★ *Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation*
- ★ *Financing Early Childhood Mental Health Services and Supports*
- ★ *The Best Beginning: Partnerships Between Primary Health Care, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*
- ★ *Promoting Cultural and Linguistic Competence: A Checklist for Early Childhood and Early Intervention Personnel*
- ★ *A Training Guide on Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation*
- ★ *Communities Supporting the Mental Health of Young children and Their Families*

### **Contact Us:**

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