



## Mental Health Services to Young Children

WHEREAS, the American School Health Association is committed to coordinated school health programs that include the school environment, health education, health services, physical education, counseling and social services, school food services, staff health promotion, and integration of school and community health promotion activities;

WHEREAS, preschool teachers and childcare providers promote and protect the healthy social and emotional development of young children;

WHEREAS, all children benefit from healthy social and emotional development;

WHEREAS, all caregivers and parents benefit from developmentally appropriate support and guidance in learning how to provide a nurturing environment that helps children develop healthy social and emotional skills;

WHEREAS, as many as 4 out of 10 preschoolers exhibit one or more disruptive and challenging behaviors such as aggression, withdrawal, defiance, anxiety, anger, or separation anxiety;

WHEREAS, effective mental health services for childcare/preschool include identifying and working with partners (parents, childcare providers, mental health providers, childcare health consultants, physicians, local health department, community), accessing and individualizing services, screening and assessment of behavior, training of childcare staff, and coordinating services with appropriate mental health providers;

WHEREAS, federal programs (IDEA Part C) provide mental health consultation and services for eligible children 0-3;

WHEREAS, the number of children in preschool/childcare continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, mental health consultation to childcare programs can take many forms such as acting as a resource, training childcare staff and preschool teachers, and working with parents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association urges a coordinated linkage of mental health services for young children who are in the childcare or preschool community that includes partnerships with the mental health community and local school districts.

### References

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