



MAINE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

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# Early Childhood and Challenging Behaviors

Cohort 2 Informational Session  
February 25, 2026

**Presented by:** Early Childhood Special Education Team



# Today's Presenters



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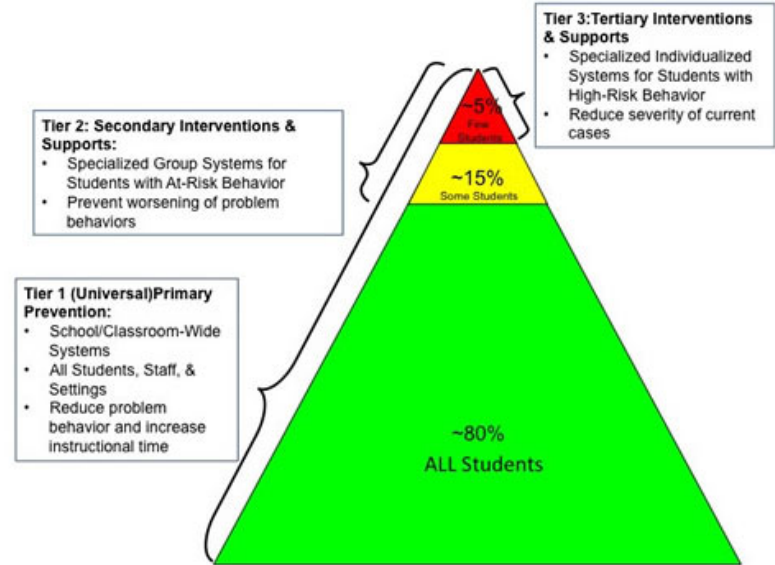
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# Positive Behavior Practices to Support Challenging Behavior



# Presentation Topics

- Foundational Practices- High Leverage, DEC Recommended Practices, and Universal Design
- Evidence-Based Practices for Tier 1,2,3 in Early Childhood
- Learning Opportunities and Resources



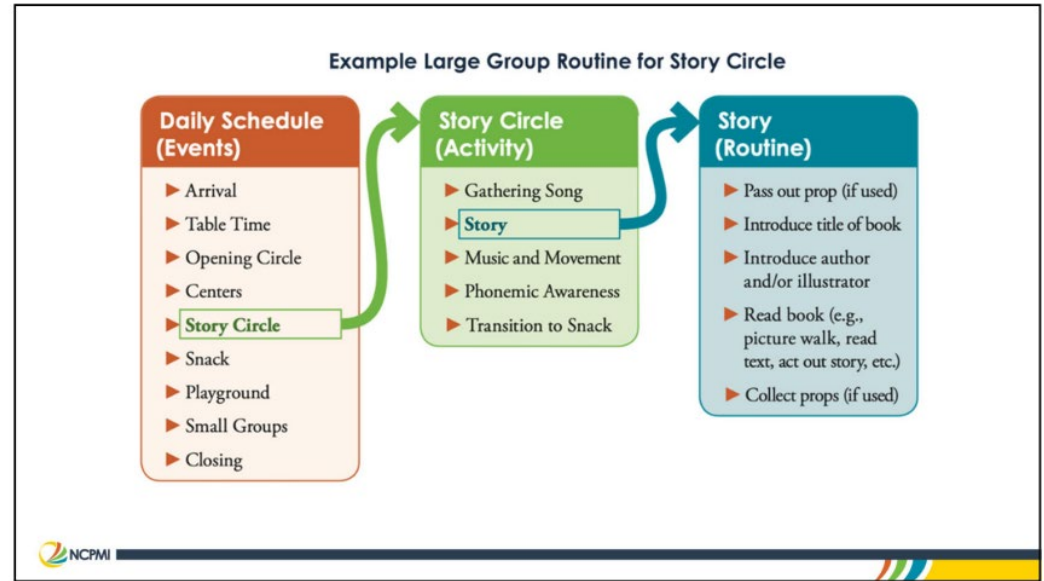
# Elements of Supportive Early Childhood Classrooms



1. The **physical, social, and academic environmental design** supports learning for every child.
2. Collaborative Teams are essential for coordinating and meeting all children's needs.
3. All promote an inclusive culture.

# Tier 1: Positive Behaviors Supports in Early Childhood Programs-Environments

- Inclusive Environments- predictable routines are used to organize meaningful learning opportunities.
- [High Leverage Practices](#), [DEC Recommended Practices](#), and [Universal Design](#)
- [Visual Supports for Routines, Schedules, and Transitions](#)
- IRIS Center Module [Classroom Reinforcement Systems](#), and [Early Childhood Behavior Management: Developing and Teaching Rules](#), and [Early Childhood Environments: Designing Effective Classrooms](#)
- [Reinforcer Inventory](#), [Positive feedback starters](#)



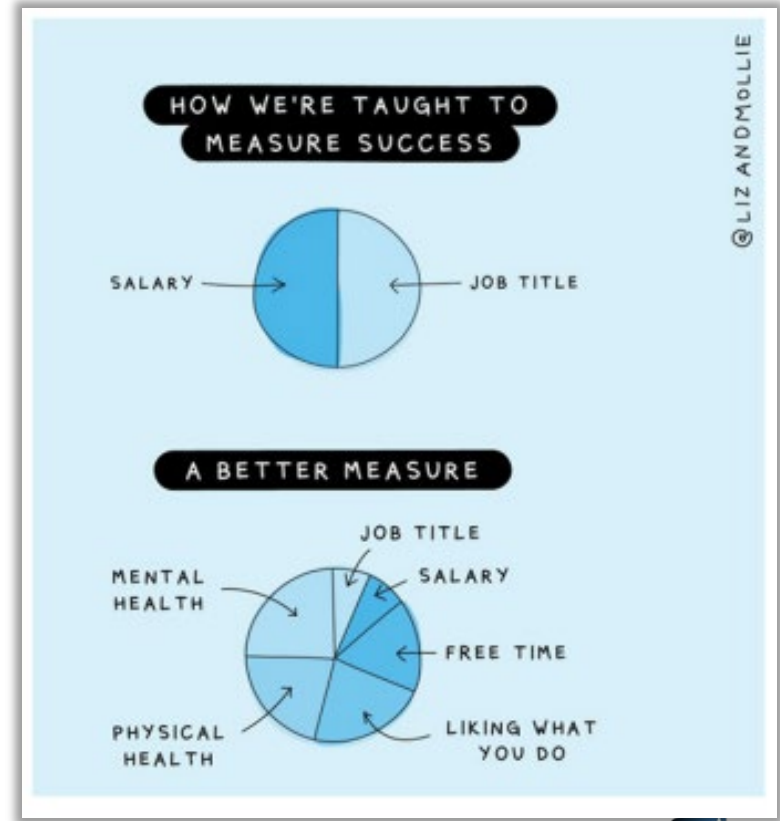
# Tier 1: Positive Behavior Supports in Early Childhood Programs- Collaborative Teams

- Inclusive, collaborative teams- promoting competence and confidence through routine reflection, shared knowledge, shared data, shared roles and responsibilities
- [Getting to Know You](#)- likes and favorites
- [Working Style Guide](#)- Comparison and Prioritizing
- [What We Bring Workbook](#)- Reflecting and Growing with Children Whose Behavior Challenges Us
- [Reflection and Planning Guide](#)- for family involvement



# Tier 1: Positive Behaviors Supports in Early Childhood Programs- **Inclusive Culture**

- Inclusive Culture-promoting inclusion through responsive (and joyful) leadership, engagement, teaching, coaching, and listening
- [Leading with Compassion: Building Trauma-Informed Pyramid Model Programs](#)
- [Collaborative Leadership](#)
- [Reflecting on Your Culture of Collective Wellness](#)
- [Culture of Caring through Collective Well-being](#)



# Evidence-Based Practices and Challenging Behavior

- Are preventative rather than reactive
- Explicit instruction involves families and team members
- Evidence-based practices promote:
  - [NAEYC-Social skills, self-regulation, and problem solving in early childhood](#)
  - [ACF- Promoting self-regulation in the first five years](#)
  - [NAEYC- Play that promotes problem-solving skills](#)



# If Intensive Intervention is Needed

- For some young children, more individualized intensive interventions may be needed.
- For the 1-5% of children who do not respond to tier 1 and 2 supports, more intensive intervention may be needed (tier 3).
- Highly individualized based on results
  - Antecedent events (environments, relationships, knowledge/skills)
  - Behavior (observable, specific)
  - Consequence (reactions)
- Data-based monitoring
- [A Conversation about Integrating Trauma Informed Care in the Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Support Plan Process \(Webinar\)](#)



# Early Learning Opportunities

- Conferences and Communities:

- [Second Annual Maine Inclusive Education Conference on April 8](#)
  - Early Childhood Strand
- [Early Learning Solutions Lab Mini-Grant Information Session March 3](#)
  - Supporting collaboration among public schools, Head Start programs, private early learning centers, and family child care homes, with the goal of increasing equitable access to high-quality early learning opportunities.
- [Maine Roads to Quality](#) training library: On-Demand, Facilitated; Inclusive settings, Universal Design, Positive Behavior Supports and Challenging Behaviors, Social Emotional Behaviors
- Engine (LMS) Early Learning Team Classroom Environments (coming soon)

# Additional Professional Development Sites and Resources

- [IRIS Resources](#)-Modules, Case Studies, Skill Sheets, Activities, Videos (free)
- [National Association for the Education of the Young Child \(NAEYC\)](#) - Recorded Webinars Library (free), Online learning (for purchase)
- [Head Start-Learning Management System](#) - Individualized professional development for early childhood educators
- [SRI Education](#)-technical assistance, research
- [High Leverage Practices](#) – Implementation resources and standards cross-walked to ECSE Recommended Practices and DEC RPs
- [National Professional Development Center on Inclusion \(NPDCI\)](#) - inclusive practices resources

# Questions and Comments

Please Share

Based on today's presentation, what additional questions, comments, or requests do you have?



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