



Early Learning Program

A Program of

Family Outreach Center for Understanding Special Needs, Inc.

www.focusoutreach.org

Mental Health Trust Authority; September 5, 2018

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FOCUS
Family Outreach Center for
Understanding Special Needs, INC

The Vision from FOCUS

FOCUS serves children with special needs and their families

- Parents in the community are struggling to “find a place” for their young children with behavior challenges.
- The community needed a specialist with expertise to develop a high-quality program
- Childcare and Early Education, small group setting, emphasis on social emotional learning
- Universally designed for children of all abilities age 3-5 years



The Need

- Increase in children being referred for social-emotional and/or behavioral concerns
- Special education preschool programs are 2.5 hours long
- Working parents unable to find suitable childcare
- Opportunity to meet the needs of the whole family



John's Story

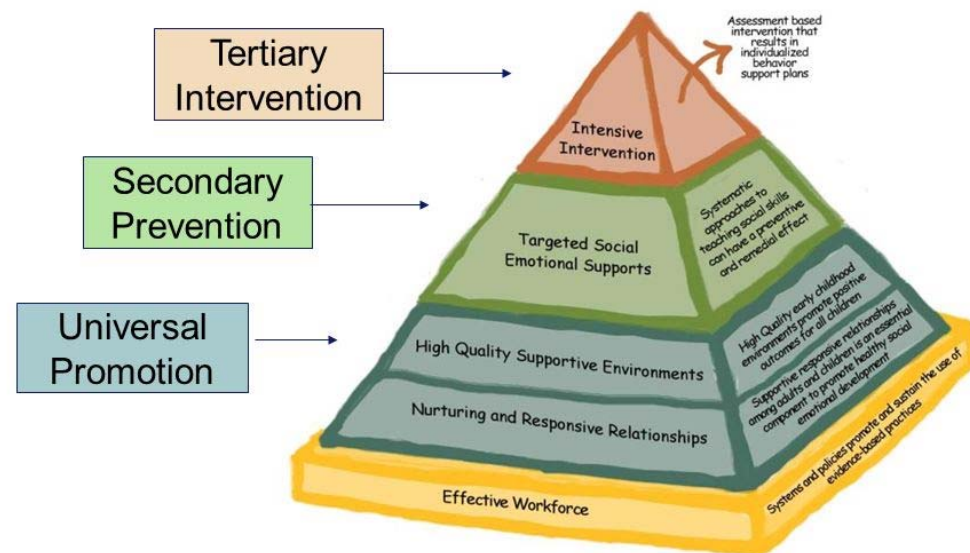


FOCUS: Social Emotional Learning

The research is clear!

Healthy social emotional development in early childhood is a strong predictor of later success in school, and beyond.

Pyramid Model



FOCUS: Social Emotional Learning

Children who learn to:

- Understand and manage emotions
- Feel and show empathy for others
- Regulate and control impulses
- Problem-solve
- Establish and maintain healthy relationships

Are more likely to become adults who:

- Engage in healthy interpersonal relationships
- Achieve personal and educational goals
- Manage stress and experience less depression
- Contribute to their communities



What Makes Us Unique?

- Low teacher to child ratio (1:4)
- Experienced, highly-qualified staff
- Emphasis on social-emotional learning
- Targeted behavior intervention based on individual needs
- Individualized support from program specialists (BCBA, OT, Speech Pathologist)
- Family acceptance and support
- Facility
- Community partnerships



Mental Health Trust Authority and The Reitman Family Trust Foundation

Your support has allowed us to turn the **vision** into a **reality**!

- Secured program location
- Equipped and set-up the classroom
- Hired and trained qualified staff
- Conducted community outreach and advertising
- Obtained MOA Childcare License
- Accepted by AK Child Care Assistance Program
- Developed community partnerships
- Developed program policies and procedures
- Open House
- Opened in January, 2018
- Currently enrollment is 7 children; total enrollment 12 children since January 2018

Trust
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

James' Story



Looking Forward

Next Steps:

- Enhance current community partnerships and add new partners
- Work with Mental Health Trust Technical Assistance on business development
- Develop program evaluation methods for assessing and reporting outcomes



Questions?

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