

Pyramid Model: A Tool for Reducing Exclusion

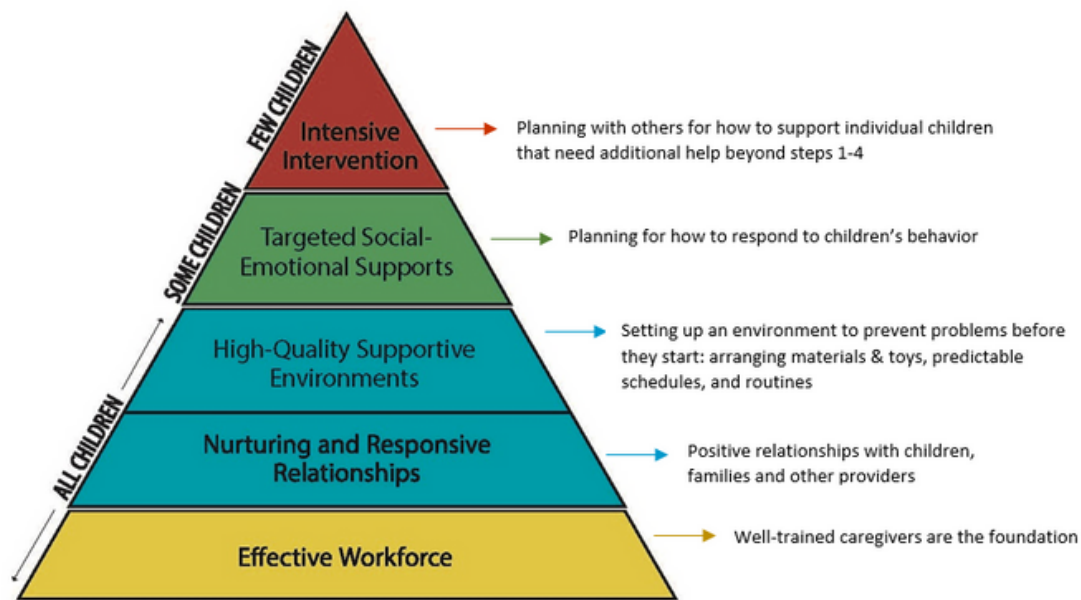


Image sourced from Monandock United Way

The Pyramid Model uses a multi-tiered approach to train specialists in developmentally supportive behavior management practices, who then train other early care staff. It focuses on socio-emotional competencies, parental involvement, and use of data tracking systems. When implemented with fidelity, it has resulted in improved outcomes for specialists, staff, and students. Children in the classrooms of early educators who received pyramid model professional development exhibited a significant improvement in social skills and challenging behaviors compared to children in the classrooms of educators receiving non-pyramid model professional development sessions.

Research shows that student social skills increase and both student-challenging behaviors and staff use of exclusionary discipline decrease following school-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model. In 2009, Colorado invested in the Pyramid Model and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC, which will be discussed further in our next brief in this series). Participating educators reported better outcomes, including higher use of developmentally appropriate responses to students' challenging behaviors, and schools saw an overall reduction in student exclusion from care.