TEAM TENNESSEE

Tennessee's Pyramid Model State Level Team



www.reallygreatsite.com

MISSION

Team Tennessee, using the Pyramid Model framework, facilitates public-private collaborations to strengthen the social-emotional development of all infants and young children while intentionally addressing systemic inequalities in early childhood intervention and education.

VISION

We envision a state where all young children have a healthy social emotional foundation for life, including those with, or at risk, for disabilities, and to ensure children and families have access to anti-biased, inclusive, and natural learning environments.

PYRAMID MODEL IMPLEMENTATION IN TN

Several Team TN members work directly with child care providers on program-wide Pyramid Model Implementation. Hemmeter Research Lab and TN Voices Ready. Set. Grow! Program each support implementation sites, while MTSU Early Learning Programs are entering year 3 of program-wide implementation.

TN CCR&R, TECTA and TN Voices Ready. Set. Grow! Program also provide Pyramid Model trainings for educators and administrators. The Hemmeter Lab and RIP provide train-the-trainer opportunities.

In 2023, Team TN members supported 10 implementation sites in Tennessee. Over 1149 adults participated in Pyramid Model trainings.

Team TN executed 9 Positive Solutions for Families cohorts in 2023.

TEAM TN 2023 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- AIMHiTN
- TN CCR&R
- Hemmeter Research Lab
- MTSU Early Learning Programs
- Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance
- TN Association for Children's Early Education
- TN Department of Human Services
- TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- TN Voices Ready. Set. Grow! Early Childhood Program

TEAM TENNESSEE

Tennessee's Pyramid Model State Level Team



UNIQUELY TEAM TN

In addition to supporting program-wide Pyramid Model Implementation in child care centers, Team TN Members have taken steps to infuse the Pyramid Model framework into elementary schools and make the Pyramid Model framework ideas more accessible to families struggling with challenging behavior and establishing connections with their children.

The Regional Intervention Program (RIP) is an internationally recognized program that is native to Tennessee. RIP is a parent-implemented program that teaches families positive behavior strategies. RIP has been extensively researched and has been demonstrated to be effective.

Project B.A.S.I.C has expanded Pyramid Model principles into elementary schools. B.A.S.I.C. is an award-winning school-based mental health prevention and early intervention program for children. B.A.S.I.C offers mental health education through classroom interactions with children and through working with teachers - coaching them on strategies to promote social emotional development of children.



In 2022, TN Voices Ready. Set. Grow! Program brought Pyramid Model into the home by utilizing Family Support Specialists to provide peer support to families through family coaching using Pyramid Model strategies.

In 2023, Team TN developed a certificate for participation in PBC coaching, allowing educators to receive DHS continuing education credit for participating in coaching. The first certificates were awarded to educators in early 2024.

PROJECT B.A.S.I.C

Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

MISSION

www.reallygreatsite.com

Within the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Division of Mental Health Services prioritizes key values critical to serving Tennesseans with behavioral health needs including programs and practices focused on promotion, intervention, and recovery support services which:

- Encourage co-occurring competent and co-occurring friendly programs
- Support culturally responsive and linguistically competent services
- Uphold System of Care core values and principles
- Aim to prevent and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences
- Promote trauma informed approaches
- Prioritize evidence-based and evidence-informed services resulting in strong outcomes

VISION

The Better Attitudes and Skills in Children (B.A.S.I.C) program is a school-based mental health early intervention and prevention service program in which a Child Development Specialist work in an elementary school with children in Kindergarten through third grade. Program activities include mental health education, early identification and intervention, teacher consultation, and school climate enhancement to promote social-emotional development in the early childhood years through use of the established Pyramid Model strategies, Pyramid Model Inventory of Practices, and established B.A.S.I.C. practices.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1,510 children received individual or group support in social emotional skill development
- 454 children were referred to mental health treatment services
- 686 teachers were impacted through individual coaching, individual consultation, and group consultation
- 8,881 classroom presentations on the Pyramid Model framework
- Expanded to 72 schools in 58 counties

MTSU EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



MISSION

Creating social and emotional connections for children and all who love, work, and play with them for a better today and tomorrow.

VISION

Health Mental Health and Well Being for All Children

PROGRAM-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

MTSU Early Learning Programs entered the second year of implementation in 2023. The program improved significantly on the Benchmarks of Quality in the second year of implementation. The Benchmarks of Quality in place rose from 20% to 75%. Additionally, a parent representative joined the leadership team and program-wide expectations were put in place. The program created a mascot, Lightning, to help teach children the expectations. Rules for the hallway and outdoor areas were also clarified. The program is working on helping families implement expectations at home. The program has noticed reduced turnover and educators are eager to begin receiving coaching.



AIMHITN

The Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee



MISSION

AIMHiTN supports professionals through training, resources, and advocacy to foster the early relational health of infants, young children, and families.

VISION

AIMHiTN envisions a healthy, thriving Tennessee that prioritizes the social and emotional development needs of every infant and young child within the context of his or her relationships with family, community, and culture.

TRAININGS FOR PROFESSIONALS

AIMHiTN offers training and outreach, amplifying understanding of the significance early experiences on child development. Some 2023 training topics included the therapeutic power of play, shifting organizational cultures through humility, and Reflective Practice for Organizational Well-Being.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched the TN IECHM Warmline to support professionals in early care and learning, evidence-based home visiting, and child welfare
- Began planning the inaugural 2024 Belonging Awards, a celebration of high-quality inclusion practices in Tennessee
- Created the Emergency Response Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help professionals understand the social and emotional impact of disasters on families
- Continued to champion IECMHC in Tennessee through the IECMHC Coordinating Council

TN ASSOCATION FOR CHILDREN'S EARLY EDUCATION

MISSION

TACEE exists to provide members with professional development opportunities and to advocate for best practice in the care, development, and education of all Tennessee's young children.

VISION

Reaching Potential Together

2023 TACEE CONFERENCE

The 2023 TACEE conference was held in Murfreesboro, TN. Over 100 conference attendees participated in the two-day event. The conference divided sessions into two tracts - an infant/toddler tract and a preschool tract. Both tracts featured Pyramid Model module trainings delivered by the Hemmeter Lab and TN Voices Ready. Set. Grow! staff. M.L. Hemmeter served as the keynote speaker for the conference.



The conference allowed for networking among early educators. One conference attendee is currently working towards beginning program-wide Pyramid Model implementation at her site after learning about the Pyramid Model at the conference and discussing implementation with administrators currently in the implementation process with their sites.

TN VOICES READY. SET. GROW! PROGRAM

MISSION

To partner with the adults in a child's life to promote the development and well-being of children ages 0-8.

VISION

All of our youngest Tennesseans having access to an array of mental health consultation services anchored in the Pyramid Model Framework.

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

The Ready. Set. Grow! program has been offering programmatic consultation, classroom consultation, and child-centered consultation for over a decade in Tennessee. In 2023, staff documented 1206 hours of direct service to centers and schools. With capacity challenges facing schools and child care centers, the program updated the programmatic consultation model to better serve prospective sites. The new tiered approach allows programs to enter programmatic consultation at a level that is achievable for the center, often beginning with administrative coaching and staff training. 3 sites were supported in 2023. 5 additional sites are currently in the exploration phase.

HOME-BASED SERVICES

Ready. Set. Grow! expanded Pyramid Model services in 2022 to include peer support for families rooted in the Pyramid Model framework. In 2023, 19 clients completed family coaching services. 63% of clients demonstrated improvement in social-emotional functioning. 8 clients saw at least one area increase a full standard deviation or more throughout services.

PYRAMID MODEL TRAINING AND POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES

In 2023, Ready. Set. Grow! offered 102 training sessions, including Positive Solutions for Families sessions. 899 unique adults received training from Ready. Set. Grow! in 2023. The program is working to increase retention throughout Positive Solutions for Families cohorts, as well as offer virtual short-term coaching and resources sharing to families who are unable to attend cohort sessions.

VANDERBILT'S HEMMETER LAB

FOCUS

The Hemmeter Lab is committed to current and innovative research to support young children's social-emotional development and address challenging behavior. Dr. Hemmeter is one of the founding researchers of the Pyramid Model, a framework used globally by early childhood educators and their families to meet the developmental and behavioral needs of young children.

PAST AND CURRENT PROJECTS

The Hemmeter Lab is currently researching several topics, including group coaching, Pyramid Resources for Supporting Social-Emotional Development for Infants and Toddlers, data informed decision making in Practice-Based Coaching.

IMPACT

in 2023, the Hemmeter Lab impacted over 100 educators, administrators and coaches. One major project was researching program-wide implementation efficiency. The Hemmeter Lab researched 10 Leadership Teams, 5 being intervention sites receiving support from Hemmeter Lab staff. Each team received weekly contact with a Program Implementation external coach. Participants also received 9 hours of training. This project impacted 23 adults serving on intervention Leadership Teams.

A second project the Hemmeter Lab worked on in 2023 was the Education Innovations Research Expansion Grant. 50 teachers across two school districts participated in the study. 25 educators and 5 internal coaches received 14 hours of training. Educators received 14 to 17 weeks of Practice-Based Coaching. The study included PreK teachers and Kindergarten teachers, expanding Pyramid Model research into the early elementary setting.

The Hemmeter Lab also provides support to other Team TN members as they work with providers and educators. Hemmeter Lab staff hold Communities of Practice for Ready. Set. Grow! consultants, Family Support Specialists, and program leadership. The Communities of Practices have an average attendance of 6 professionals and participants have voiced positive feedback about the experience.

TENNESSEE CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL NETWORK



MISSION

To strengthen children, adults and families through services focusing on disabilities, early childhood education and self-sufficiency.

PURPOSE

The Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) works to ensure Tennessee families, educators, and care providers are “equipped with everything needed to provide the children under their care the best possible start in life.”

CCR&R serves Tennessee through sites across the state that provide administrative, technical, business, and developmental coaching and training for child care operators and professionals while also supporting families with resources that ensure children prosper. Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) funds CCR&R as an investment in our state’s future.

CCR&R AND PYRAMID MODEL

In 2023, CCR&R conducted 35 Pyramid Model and related social-emotional trainings. 217 child care professionals were impacted through participation in trainings. Trainings include family engagement, universal design for classrooms, inclusion training for directors, and responsive caregiving for infants and toddlers.

CCR&R also supports programs working towards program-wide Pyramid Model implementation. In 2023 CCR&R completed the second year of the Practice-Based Coaching Data-Informed Decision Making (PBC-DIDM) project. The project supports CCR&R Health and Well-Being Coaches in effectively using TPOT data to guide practice-based coaching with child care educators.