

Preventing Expulsion and Suspension: Keeping Children In Child Care Settings

What Families Need to Know

Definition

Because the expulsion or suspension of a young child from their program can have negative impacts on their development and learning, the Maryland State Department of Education has adopted a policy for eliminating the use of suspension and expulsion except for cases where there is a serious safety threat.

Expulsion means ending a child's enrollment in their program; however, suspension can take many different forms.

Suspension could be:

- reducing the amount of time a child attends; restricting attendance for a certain period of time.
- requiring family members to accompany the child.
- requiring a child to be in a location other than their typical group or environment.
- enforcing other conditions that affect the child's ability to participate in activities with their peers.

It takes both families and educators working together to prevent situations where expulsion or suspension are considered.

The Family's Role

- **Know your program's policies on discipline** and behavior support. Talk to your provider if you have questions.
- **Remember the goal** is to help your child by having the adults in their lives working together. You can provide knowledge that only you have about your child. Speak with your program often and share information.
- **Develop a plan** with your provider and follow through. Having the same goals and rules at home and school will create a consistent and supportive environment for your child.
- **Access the services** or supports that are recommended to you from your program. They are there to help you and support your child's success.
- Finally, **share any concerns** or complaints with your program as soon as they arise. Discuss them calmly and respectfully so a solution can be found.

Partnership

Together, you and your early care educator can work together to give your child the opportunity to thrive and succeed in their early care and education program. Working together now builds the foundation for the future success of your child's education.

For more information and guidance for Maryland's Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion in Early Care and Education Programs, please see <https://marylandfamiliesengage.org/preventing-suspension-and-expulsion-policy-statement/>

