Since 2016, mental health consultants (funded through ECPAC) have supported 59 children with challenging behaviors through the development of individualized strategies.

Among the Adams County programs that report children leaving their program as a result of behavioral issues, those that receive consultation report far fewer expulsions.

Research shows that children, especially economically disadvantaged children, who attend high-quality preschool programs, have better school achievement, social skills, and behavior than children who do not participate in a preschool experience or who are enrolled in a low-quality program.
High-quality early childhood education, environments and experiences make the difference for ensuring children are ready for kindergarten and to excel academically and socially.

**What people are saying...**

Sweet Pea Center for Early Learning (Sweet Pea) was one of the first programs to go through the Colorado Shines Quality Rating System, supported by an ECPAC coach. The center initially rated a Level 3 and is currently working toward a Level 5 (the highest) rating.

Traci Chamberlain, director at Sweet Pea, shares that as a result of ECPAC coaching, she and her staff feel more prepared to go through the process again. **“ECPAC provides the hands-on piece for childcare centers, with resources and information to get you to the quality that is needed.”**

Acknowledging that quality is important, early care and education programs that participate also commit to making themselves vulnerable with regard to sharing their practices and ideas. Being aware of and sensitive to this, ECPAC coaches are able to ease nerves and address hesitations to beginning and staying committed to the process. As Sharon Juel, director of the Preschool at City of Thornton Community Center, shares, “We have a small center ... Moving into the rating system was scary for everyone. It was the first time for teachers being rated in that way. **When the coach came in, the tension level dropped noticeably.** The coach really helped calm anxieties of teachers.”

Lisa Lambrecht, preschool director at Bright Horizons Early Education Center, spoke to the incredible value of having access to current best practices within early childhood care and education and to a network of resources. Bright Horizons is committed to ongoing improvement for the benefit of its children and families, moving through Level 1 and Level 2 ratings, to its current rating of Level 3. **“As an Adams 12 Five Star School District Preschool, we are rated at a Level 3, and it is due to the help and involvement of ECPAC.”** Bright Horizons is already working with its coach to achieve a Level 4 or Level 5 rating in 2019.

Summing up the value of improving quality, Sharon noted, **“We will have a better generation because of the support.”**

**“Our preschool program has this quality Level due to the help and involvement of ECPAC.”**

—LISA LAMBRECHT, BRIGHT HORIZONS

**How you can get involved...**

---SHARE---

If you know someone who could benefit from ECPAC’s services, or would be interested in learning more, pass it on!

---GIVE---

Help ECPAC continue to be able to provide Adams County with quality early childhood services and resources.

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