



# CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK Information Sheet

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## What is CA CSEFEL\* TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK?

The CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK is a tiered approach of evidence-based practices intended to put an emphasis on

- Δ **Promoting** healthy social-emotional development for all children through the two foundational tiers (Nurturing and Responsive Relationships and High-Quality Supportive Environments)
- Δ **Preventing** challenging behaviors (Targeted Social-Emotional Supports), and
- Δ **Intervening** to address individual problematic behaviors through intensive interventions (Positive Behavior Support).



This is all built on an effective workforce to deliver these strategies. The TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK draws from Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and was originally developed by national centers. CA CSEFEL has been operating since 2009.

The CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK was designed to guide learning experiences of early childhood professionals during training sessions, facilitate reflective practice through classroom-based coaching, and ensure sustainability by leadership team development. The CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK promotes belonging for all infants, toddlers, preschool-age, and school-age children. When the CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK is implemented with fidelity, children will demonstrate greater social competence, increased emotional literacy, and fewer behavior challenges.

## What is Social-Emotional Development?

Social-Emotional development<sup>i</sup> is the developmentally and culturally appropriate ability to:

- Δ Experience, express, and manage emotions
- Δ Establish positive and rewarding relationships with others

## What are the components for implementing the CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID Framework?

The power of the CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK is most clearly seen when it is implemented program-wide across an entire site, district, or agency. There are six recommended components for achieving a program-wide approach:

- Δ Planning by a group of leaders (Leadership Team, Implementation Team)
- Δ Training for all program staff in a systematic way
- Δ Technical assistance and coaching to support implementation to fidelity
- Δ Incorporation of family engagement to strengthen the link between home and school
- Δ Identification and training of those responsible for the development of positive behavior support plans
- Δ Follow-up for sustainability after training ends

For a description of these components, please visit  
[www.CAinclusion.org/teachingpyramid/components.html](http://www.CAinclusion.org/teachingpyramid/components.html)

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### Evidence-based Facts

Young children with challenging behavior are more likely to experience expulsion from preschool programs and experience expulsion at 3.2 times the average rate of K-12 students (Gilliam, 2005).

A randomized study<sup>iii</sup> conducted within public school classrooms enrolling preschool children with disabilities in Florida and Tennessee found that:

- Δ Teachers in the experimental condition who received training and coaching demonstrated increases in practices for promoting social emotional development and addressing challenging behavior.
- Δ Children enrolled in the experimental classrooms implementing the Pyramid [Framework] demonstrated statistically significant improvements in their social skills.
- Δ “Target” children in the experimental classrooms had statistically significant reductions in problem behavior

### CA CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid Framework In Action

- Δ The CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK is being implemented throughout California.
  - There are more than 20 counties with some level of program implementation.
  - There are four levels of program implementation recognized by CA CSEFEL:
    - **Entry Sites** are interested in adopting the CA CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid Framework and have some of the elements in place.
    - **Practicing Sites** are using the approach and are committed to implementing all components of the framework.
    - **Partner Sites** are practicing sites that are interested in implementing the framework with fidelity, sharing data, and are collaborating with CA CSEFEL to share its practices and support state-wide implementation.
    - **Mentor Classrooms** are housed within Partner Sites, are implementing the framework with fidelity, and are committed to sharing their practice through mentoring other programs in their community.
- Δ 20 Partner Sites in counties across the state are implementing all of the components.
- Δ At this time, 8 classrooms within the Partner Sites are implementing with fidelity.
- Δ A state-wide Leadership Team meets quarterly to provide oversight and support
- Δ cross-agency collaboration regarding children’s social-emotional development.

### CA CSEFEL TEACHING PYRAMID FRAMEWORK Training and Professional Development

- Δ An Overview of the Teaching Pyramid is available as a full-day workshop or an online module <http://www.caearlychildhoodonline.org/login.aspx>
- Δ Professional development packages with the recommended components for home visitors, infant/toddler, preschool, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> grade are available from WestEd through [teachingpyramid@wested.org](mailto:teachingpyramid@wested.org)
  - CA CSEFEL has 12 core trainers and coaches on staff at WestEd
- Δ There is a network of CA CSEFEL authorized trainers and coaches for the TEACHING PYRAMID FOR PRESCHOOL in various counties
  - 40 coaches
  - 20 trainers for the first three tiers (Modules 1 and 2)
  - 30 trainers for all four tiers (Modules 1, 2, and 3)
- Δ Training for family child care providers is available through Family Child Care at Its Best, UC Davis Center for Excellence in Child Development <http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/ChildDev/Programs/FamilyChildCare.aspx?unit=CHLDEV>

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<sup>i</sup> California Department of Education. *California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations*. Sacramento: California Department of Education, 2009.

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<sup>ii</sup> Preliminary results shared at the Third Conference of the International Society of Early Intervention, May 5, 2011 in New York, NY. [http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/pyramid\\_model.htm](http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/pyramid_model.htm)