

The Early Childhood Program at TGC...



The Early Childhood Program at The Guidance Center focuses primarily on children between three and seven years of age. By targeting this age group we increase the chance that children participating in our program will enter school prepared to learn.

A primary goal of the program is to have each child assessed and then referred for appropriate services. The STAR program is intended for children that have not yet entered Kindergarten, so most children referred to the program are between 3 and 5 years old. This age group provides us with the opportunity to identify behavioral concerns and respond before a child is placed in a formal school setting.

What does the Program offer?

There are many opportunities for behavioral healthcare services for young children and their families through the Early Childhood Program including but not limited to:

- Assessments to help parents identify areas of behavioral and temperamental concerns (available at any of The Guidance Center offices, or at Count Your Kid In Screenings with your local school district).
- One-on-one case management from providers trained to work with young children (offered all domains: community, school, daycare, home etc).
- S.T.A.R. is an early intervention therapeutic program licensed by the State of Kansas. Specialized interventions are provided for children who have been identified as having or are at risk of developing severe behavioral health issues. This type of intervention is not normally available through traditional preschools or childcare programs.
- The STAR is available during the school year and in the summer in collaboration with Head Start, and area pre-school facilities.

- Groups that focus on social and coping skills, peer relations, problem-solving skills, emotion regulation, listening and attending skills and much more and is done utilizing positive behavior management techniques.

The Guidance Center also offers individual and family therapy, as well as medication management, if needed and desired.

Connect with a strong support network...

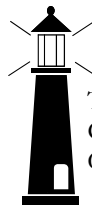
Working collaboratively with teachers, daycare providers & your community to help your child:

- Learn appropriate social skills & emotional skills to enhance academic readiness.
- Understand feelings and learn appropriate to express needs and wants.
- Respond effectively to different situations.
- Make positive choices in every day life, and complete tasks successfully at home, school and daycare.

An opportunity learn the skills needed to help your child flourish...

Learn how to:

- Focus on the positive aspects of your child
- Serve as his/her advocate in the community
- Discipline effectively with all behaviors



THE
GUIDANCE
CENTER

Promoting Healthy Communities

THE GUIDANCE CENTER

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



Serving Children and Families
in
Atchison and Leavenworth
Counties

913-367-1593 (Atchison)
913-682-5118 (Leavenworth)

www.theguidance-ctr.org
Nikki Hitchcock, LMSW, Program Manager
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At The Guidance Center...

We envision healthy, safe communities where individual differences are valued, human dignity is preserved, and personal strengths are enhanced.

Behavioral Health and Young Children...



According to the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, behavioral health, like physical health is an essential part of a child's healthy development. The preschool years are vital in

laying the foundation for emotional development and for future social and cognitive learning. Paying attention to a child's behavioral health needs in these formative years is critically important.

We know that young children experience behaviors from time to time as they grow and develop. At times these behaviors are challenging to parents and other adult caregivers. Most of these behaviors go away without turning into serious behavioral concerns with the right kinds of strategies and attention from parents and other caregivers.

However, for some children their behavior is more intense, occurs more frequently and interferes with their ability to learn and form positive relationships with peers and significant adults. These children may have serious behavioral health problems that have the potential to negatively impact their future. Most providers lack the specialized training and skills required to manage the problem behaviors presented by these children when placed in their care.

The Early Childhood program staff members focus on identifying the assets and strengths of each child, along with the underlying risk factors and behavioral health needs that interfere with a

child's ability to learn, control their emotions or interact appropriately with others. Through research based techniques and interventions, children are able to regain their behavioral health.

The significance of a behavioral health program for pre school age children is the benefit the child will reap in school, community and at home. Our goals for each child are a life-long achievement of emotional and behavioral health through increasing resiliency, and to prevent and/or overcome the risks that contribute to negative behaviors.

Family Involvement...

Our program follows a family centered system of care model that promotes parent involvement through ongoing communication between home and school in order to maximize positive outcomes for each child.



Our mental health staff encourages families to be active partners in their child's education; and we welcome input and involvement in service planning and provisions. Behavior management strategies are taught to parents through individual and group sessions as needed.

To ensure that children experience increasing success at home as well as at school, TGC offers and extensive array of services for families and caregivers including:

- Parent support
- Case management/home visits
- Collaboration with other service providers
- Crisis services
- parent-child therapy
- Attendant care
- Respite services

How are the children identified?

Most of the children are identified through an early childhood screening process conducted by a TGC clinician in collaboration with Head Start, local Special Education Cooperatives, and physicians. Others come to the Center following unsuccessful experiences in a traditional preschool setting.

When is the STAR Program Available?

The Early Childhood Program runs fairly concurrent with school district schedules. The S.T.A.R. group is located in The Guidance Center in Leavenworth, Kansas and at the Head Start facility in Atchison, Kansas. At present time, the TGC only offers a summer program which meets in the Head Start building in Oskaloosa.

The groups meet Monday through Thursday 9:00am until noon.

How is the Program Funded?

Services provided through the Early Childhood Program are funded by client fees, third party reimbursement, and private charitable contributions.

What fees are associated with the program?

Fees not covered by medical insurance are based upon the income of the family.

Is transportation Provided?

Yes, courtesy transportation is available for all children participating in the program.



Additional information...

For additional information about the early childhood programs offered through The Guidance Center, please contact:

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