K-5 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Basics

The K-5 Early Intervention Program is a voluntary program managed by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, **Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services** in collaboration with the Department of Education and participating local school districts.

This program works with families and children who exhibit behavioral, academic, social or mental health problems that, unless appropriately addressed at an early stage, can manifest through difficulties in school and more serious social and/or emotional developmental issues that can impact across a lifetime. Early intervention services are provided to address issues before children and their families require more intensive and expensive interventions later in life.

The Process

Fifty-Four Family Crisis Therapists (FCTs) are assigned to designated elementary schools in 15 school districts and seven charter schools throughout the state.

The K-5 Early Intervention Program's holistic approach employs FCTs that are uniquely different from traditional guidance, school counselors or traditional social workers. FCTs work with students' entire families, including parents/guardians and siblings and can address any presenting issue, whether behavioral, emotional or social skills based. In many instances, FCTs work with families to address survival and/or crisis issues, thus enabling them to focus on the emotional, academic, and social needs of the child(ren).

Services provided by the K-5 Early Intervention Family Crisis Therapists include:

- School and home-based crisis intervention
- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- ·Child/parent support groups
- ·Home visits
- ·Consultation with teachers and school administration
- ·Collaboration with the school and outside agencies
- ·Social skills building workshops for children
- ·Conflict resolution
- ·Discipline alternatives
- ·Location of resources (as needed)
- ·Summer programming

For more information on the K-5 Early Intervention Program, please call (302) 892-4576 or email dscyf_intake_general@delaware.gov.

DSCYF
Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families