



A.11081 (Hevesi)

Requires training with respect to adverse childhood experiences for day care providers.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) harm children’s developing brains so profoundly that the effects show up decades later; they are the cause of chronic disease and are at the root of most violence.ⁱ Nearly 20 years ago, the CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACEs study showed that most people have at least one ACE and that people with four or more are likely to experience long-term and chronic health conditions. **ACEs include: physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect; parental mental illness, substance abuse, or incarceration; parental separation or divorce; and domestic violence.**ⁱⁱ

ACEs literally change the brain architecture and impair the prefrontal cortex, the home of Executive Function (EF)—our ability to make decisions, self-regulate, set and achieve goals, and plan for the future. **Since over 85% of brain development occurs between birth and age five, it is imperative that early childhood providers (in this case, child care/day care providers) are equipped to address ACEs.**

A recent study by the Center for American Progress revealed that **an estimated 250 children are suspended or expelled from preschool programs every day.**ⁱⁱⁱ Black boys are disproportionately impacted, with suspension/expulsion rates more than twice that of white preschoolers.^{iv} We are doing these young children a grave disservice by ignoring their needs; we must start providing assistance and keep them in classrooms by equipping their teachers/providers with the right tools to address and mitigate ACEs.

We know that by strengthening Protective Factors (PF), we can moderate the effects of ACEs. The five Protective Factors are: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in

times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. **Providers must receive training not only in ACEs but in PF.**

Prevent Child Abuse New York suggests that the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) add this training to its core topic area—Principles of Child Development. Currently, the Legislature has authority to make changes to the OCFS topic areas. The training is three hours and would be administered by a private organization that has expertise in this area and that has administered similar trauma trainings.

There would be no cost to participants, trainings would be held in central locations, and webinars would be available if necessary. Every attempt will be made to not add undue burden to providers.

Fiscal: TBD

ⁱ www.acestoohigh.com

ⁱⁱ Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris

ⁱⁱⁱ *New Data Reveal 250 Preschoolers Are Suspended or Expelled Every Day*; Malik, Rasheed; Center for American Progress; November 6, 2017.

^{iv} Ibid