



## HealthyCHILD: Collaborative Health Interventions for Learners with Differences

*Developmental Healthcare Partnerships in Inclusive Early Childhood Settings*

EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIPS  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH  
THE UCLID CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

*For the innovation and success of the HealthyCHILD model, Dr. Bagnato and his Early Childhood Partnerships program were recipients of the 2001 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award. The award was sponsored and championed by notable representatives from community-based early care and education agencies in the Pittsburgh region.*

### WHAT IS HEALTHYCHILD?

HealthyCHILD is a partnership among Children's Hospital, the UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh, all types of school- and community-based early childhood programs (e.g., Head Start, early intervention, early care and education), and primary care physicians to deliver medical and behavioral healthcare support to young children (age 0-8) by providing teachers, caregivers, parents and administrators with consultation, intervention, mentoring/education and technical assistance. HealthyCHILD is unique in that it provides on-site consultation and support on-site within the child's classroom, and sometimes in the home. HealthyCHILD specializes in the needs of children with challenging or atypical behaviors, developmental delays/disabilities, and acute and chronic medical concerns (e.g., asthma, seizures, syndromes, diabetes).

### WHAT IS THE HEALTHYCHILD DEVELOPMENTAL HEALTHCARE TEAM?

The operational feature of the HealthyCHILD model is a mobile team composed of interdisciplinary healthcare professionals who are both generalists and specialists. The full team is composed of a pediatric nurse, developmental school psychologist, developmental/behavioral healthcare consultant, an interagency liaison, the child's teacher, the child's parent(s), other team members, and graduate student Fellows within the UCLID Center. A developmental pediatrician offers consultation to the team.

### WHAT SERVICES DOES HEALTHYCHILD DELIVER?

HealthyCHILD Services are based on individual child and classroom needs. Services include: direct classroom consultation about children, professional development training and mentoring of staff, technical assistance, observational assessment, direct service, diagnosis, referral, and parent-professional team meetings based on program needs-assessment.

### WHAT IS THE MAJOR FOCUS OF HEALTHYCHILD?

HealthyCHILD supports have four major objectives: (1) Promoting children's success in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, early intervention, early care and education classrooms, and family child care; (2) increasing the skills of teachers and caregivers through both preventive and supportive healthcare strategies; (3) providing consultative and direct services to children with a range of behavioral health concerns and acute and chronic medical conditions; (4) identifying the impact of the child's healthcare needs on performance and early learning in the early childhood setting.

## WHAT SPECIFIC HELP WILL TEACHERS, CAREGIVERS AND PARENTS GET FROM HEALTHYCHILD?

- On-site, in-vivo training on healthcare issues in the classroom or home setting
- Ongoing classroom visits and consultations by developmental consultants regarding changes in classroom climates that will improve child health, development, behavior and adjustment.
- Modeling of healthcare strategies for teachers, caregivers and parents.
- Written Developmental Healthcare Plan of individual goals and strategies to meet the physical and behavioral needs of referred children.
- Written consultation summary report with diagnosis to gain access to behavioral health/mental health wrap-around services
- Liaisons with primary care physicians.
- Collaborative meetings between parents, agency staff, and school personnel.
- Support at transition meetings to advise on childrens' entry into kindergarten and first-grade.
- Linkages with community resources, various health and human service agencies (e.g., early intervention, wrap-around mental health) and public schools.
- Provision of written resources about developmental healthcare.

## WHO ARE SOME OF THE COMMUNITY INTERAGENCY PARTNERS FOR HEALTHYCHILD?

- Collaborative Developmental Healthcare Support in School-Linked Early Childhood Programs: HealthyCHILD, US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS); The Jewish Healthcare Foundation of Pittsburgh, (1994-1998);
- HealthyCHILD Support in Regular Early Care and Education, PA Department of Public Welfare, Child Care Resource Developers Grant (1999-2000);
- Pittsburgh Public Schools MOSAIC Early Intervention Program, Pittsburgh Board of Education, Program for Children with Exceptionalities (1997-present);
- Pittsburgh Public Schools Board of Education Head Start (1998-present);
- Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC) Head Start, COTRAIC (1997-present);
- Early Childhood and Family Support Services: Allegheny County Head Start, Allegheny Intermediate Unit (1999—present);
- Northern Panhandle Head Start, West Virginia (2002-present)

## WHAT ARE SOME PUBLICATIONS ABOUT HEALTHYCHILD?

Bagnato, SJ, Minzenberg, B, Blair, K, Silex-Fireman, K, McNally, R: Developmental healthcare partnerships in inclusive early childhood settings: The HealthyCHILD model. *Inf Young Children* (in press)

Bagnato SJ: Collaborative developmental healthcare support in inclusive early childhood programs: The efficacy and outcomes of the HealthyCHILD model (1994-1998), Washington, DC, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, US Office of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and The Jewish Healthcare Foundation, 1999.

## HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTHYCHILD?

Contact Dr. Stephen J. Bagnato, Ed.D. at (412) 692-6520 or [steve.bagnato@chp.edu](mailto:steve.bagnato@chp.edu). More detailed explanation of HealthyCHILD and its parent Early Childhood Partnerships program can be gained on the website of The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh, [www.uclid.org](http://www.uclid.org). Click on Programs and Projects and then Early Childhood Partnerships and HealthyCHILD.