

St. David's Center's ECE Consultation Program FAQ

St. David's Center's ECE Consultation Program partners with early childhood educators to create inclusive, high-quality learning environments for children of all abilities. With over 60 years of experience, we tailor our approach to each program's unique strengths, offering hands-on classroom support, targeted training, and sustainable strategies. From reflective Program Health Checks to individualized teacher coaching, we empower leaders and educators to integrate proven practices that support children with developmental challenges, ACEs, and diverse needs. Together, we help programs bring their mission and vision to life in every classroom.

1. What happens during the first meeting with ECE leadership and teachers?

Our first meeting with program leaders focuses on identifying and building on the program's existing strengths. We start with a Program Health Check: a reflective tool that helps leaders assess different areas of their program's functioning. Together, we review what's working well and identify areas for growth. Based on these insights, we make recommendations and help leaders set priorities that align with their mission, values, and culture. This approach leads to:

- intentional classroom design,
- a supportive program structure,
- and effective teaching strategies that benefit all children.

We start by joining teachers in the classroom, along with a program leader, modeling how leaders can partner with and support teachers in a positive, strengths-based way. This relationship-building approach sets the foundation for our collaboration.

2. How do you help teachers identify challenges and opportunities in their classrooms?

We work alongside teachers in the classroom and meet with them outside classroom hours to build trust and foster open dialogue. Together, we address their concerns and explore ways to integrate high-quality early education principles, program values, and classroom needs. Through a reflective process, we model how leaders can support teachers' professional growth, enhancing their insight and skills.

3. What kind of training do you offer, and how does it support inclusive classrooms?

We provide a mix of large-group, small-group, and one-on-one training sessions. These focus on:

- **General Classroom Strategies:** Techniques to create a calm, supportive environment for all children. By improving the overall classroom dynamic, teachers have more capacity to meet individual needs.
- **Individualized Support:** We work with teachers to adapt general strategies for children with specific needs, offering resources like social stories, sensory supports, and structured routines. Teachers also receive guidance on documenting observations, partnering with families, and identifying early intervention services when needed.

Through this training, leaders learn ways to guide and support their teachers, helping create high-quality, inclusive classrooms that stay effective even after our consultation period.

4. How do you support teachers in real-time during classroom activities?

By working side-by-side with teachers, we gain insights and demonstrate strategies in action. For example, we might lead a group activity focused on calming techniques or model ways to use visuals to increase engagement. We also step in to handle classroom tasks, allowing teachers to focus on trying new strategies.

5. How do you work with children who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or developmental challenges?

Our approach emphasizes proactive strategies, including:

- **Creating Consistency:** Establishing a predictable environment helps children feel secure.
- **Building Relationships:** We focus on fostering warm, trusting connections with each child.
- **Quieting Intense Emotions:** Teachers learn a 5-step process that begins with self-calming and leads to steps that support the child.

6. What changes have you seen in classrooms after partnering with programs?

We frequently see positive shifts, including:

- **Increased Self-Awareness:** Teachers and leaders reflect on their approaches and set personal goals for implementing effective group strategies.
- **Proactive Child Support:** Visual aids help children understand routines and build confidence.
- **Enhanced Teacher Skills:** Teachers learn the importance of teaching tools that empower children to self-regulate and problem-solve independently.
- **Introduction of Calming Corners and Social Stories:** These resources help children manage emotions and conflicts, fostering a supportive classroom environment.

7. How do you ensure that everyone is on board with creating a more inclusive program?

We work closely with leaders to help them confidently support their program, teachers, and children. When teachers feel well-supported, they can fully commit to the program's vision. Together, we blend the program's strengths with proven practices from St. David's Center, helping leaders establish systems that stabilize their program and encourage inclusion.

8. How do you make sure the inclusive practices stick after the consultation ends?

Our focus is on building each program's internal expertise and infrastructure to ensure sustainability. This way, even with staff changes, the systems and inclusive practices remain in place.

9. What makes St. David's Center's ECE Consultation Program unique?

With over 60 years of experience, St. David's Center has developed tools and systems to meet the challenges faced by ECE programs. We understand the realities of this industry and work to empower each program by blending their unique strengths with high-quality practices that bring their mission and vision to life in their classrooms.

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At St. David's Center, we understand the complexities and challenges of creating inclusive environments in ECE classrooms that are ready to serve children of all abilities. That's why we're inviting ECE program administrators and teachers to partner with us through our comprehensive ECE Consultation Program.

Enhance your program's capacity with tailored strategies that:

- Build on your existing strengths
- Integrate inclusive practices into your daily routine
- Support every child, including those with developmental challenges and ACEs.

Our team works closely with yours—from hands-on classroom engagement to strategic planning sessions, ensuring your programs develop sustainable strategies to include all children in the learning environment. If you're ready to transform your ECE setting into a more inclusive, effective environment, join us!

[Contact us today to learn how we can work together to bring your program's mission and vision to life.]

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Calling all ECE Heroes!

Are you ready to take your early childhood program to the next level? Join St. David's Center's ECE Consultation Program and be part of a movement towards inclusive education.

What we offer:

- Customized support to enhance your classroom's inclusivity.
- Strategies to manage and embrace diversity in learning abilities and to support children with ACEs.
- Real-time coaching for immediate improvements in classroom dynamics.

We believe every child deserves a place where they can thrive. Let's make that place your program.

Swipe up to learn more about how you can transform your educational practices and create an environment where every child succeeds!