

# Inclusion Practices: Trauma-Informed Care and The Pyramid Model

Coaching and training to better support early learning providers in responding to the needs of children with complex behaviors, disabilities, and other challenges known to disrupt healthy development and school readiness.

## What are Inclusion Practices, Trauma-Informed Care, and the Pyramid Model?

- **Inclusion Practices** are centered on supporting families' diverse needs, social-emotional well-being, and mental health.
- **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)** is an inclusionary practice.
- **Pyramid Model** is an approach which supports social-emotional competence in infants and young children within early intervention and early education program.

	Successes	Challenges	Results and Next Steps
COACHES	Washington received a Technical Assistance grant with The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) for statewide implementation of Pyramid Model to improve the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for children.  The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) website: <a href="https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Implementation/Program/index.html">https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Implementation/Program/index.html</a>	Adaptation to building capacity and assessing interest for growing need within a virtual environment. This challenge was exacerbated by the increased demand for virtual provider support related to COVID-19.	Partnership with Cultivate Learning, resulting in more than <b>263 Pyramid Model training touchpoints</b> in 2021. Planning to integrate training into Early Achievers coach onboarding.
	TIC integrated into Pyramid Model approach to maximize resources.	Existing and emerging trainings remain unmapped in a broader learning trajectory; this is necessary to identify training gaps.	Deep dive training, including TIC, piloted with <b>20 Early Achievers coaches</b> . Planning to continue deep dive trainer series and align existing trainings to leverage capacity.
EDUCATORS	The PDG-R B-5 provides support for planning and coordination of Pyramid Model and TIC implementation.	Screening tools, assessment materials, and classroom resources are less available to private early learning sites.	In 2021, <b>22 interactive, virtual trainings took place for Enhancing the Quality of Learning (EQEL)</b> , which introduces Pyramid Model principles. Successes lead to the expansion of EQEL and identification of three sites for full Pyramid Model implementation.

## Why was Trauma-Informed Care recommended for expansion in Washington State?

*“Inadequate training and support for early care and education professionals results in increased stress and use of exclusionary disciplinary practices, such as expulsion, that are detrimental to young children’s development and their families’ emotional and economic wellbeing. [Trauma-Informed Care] supports children who have trauma histories or neurodevelopmental differences, behaviors associated with children’s efforts to function in environments and relationships within the early care and education system [which] may create challenges for their care providers.”<sup>1</sup>*

1. [www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/TICAG.pdf](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/TICAG.pdf)

WASHINGTON’S PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE RENEWAL  
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**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

*The project described was supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG-R B-5), Grant Number 90TP0069, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

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DCYF PUBLICATION (02-2022) IAA\_0004

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## Washington’s Pyramid Model

In Spring 2021, Washington’s Pyramid Model state leadership team began aligning existing trainings in inclusion practices and trauma-informed care for infant and early learning coaches and educators.

With the support of the PDG-R B-5 Evaluation Team, the cross-institutional group developed this model for initial alignment of existing trainings. The goal was to ensure that all coaches and educators of children birth through 5 were guaranteed high-quality, comprehensive training that was not duplicative.

This team chose to highlight three foundational approaches that are at the core of Washington’s Early Learning MDS, including inclusive differentiated learning, TIC, and anti-racist, anti-bias principles. Using this foundation along with the Pyramid Model competencies, and an incremental building of complexity, teams at DCYF, OSPI, and early learning partners continue to align their existing trainings to provide clear coordination in the statewide Pyramid Model implementation.

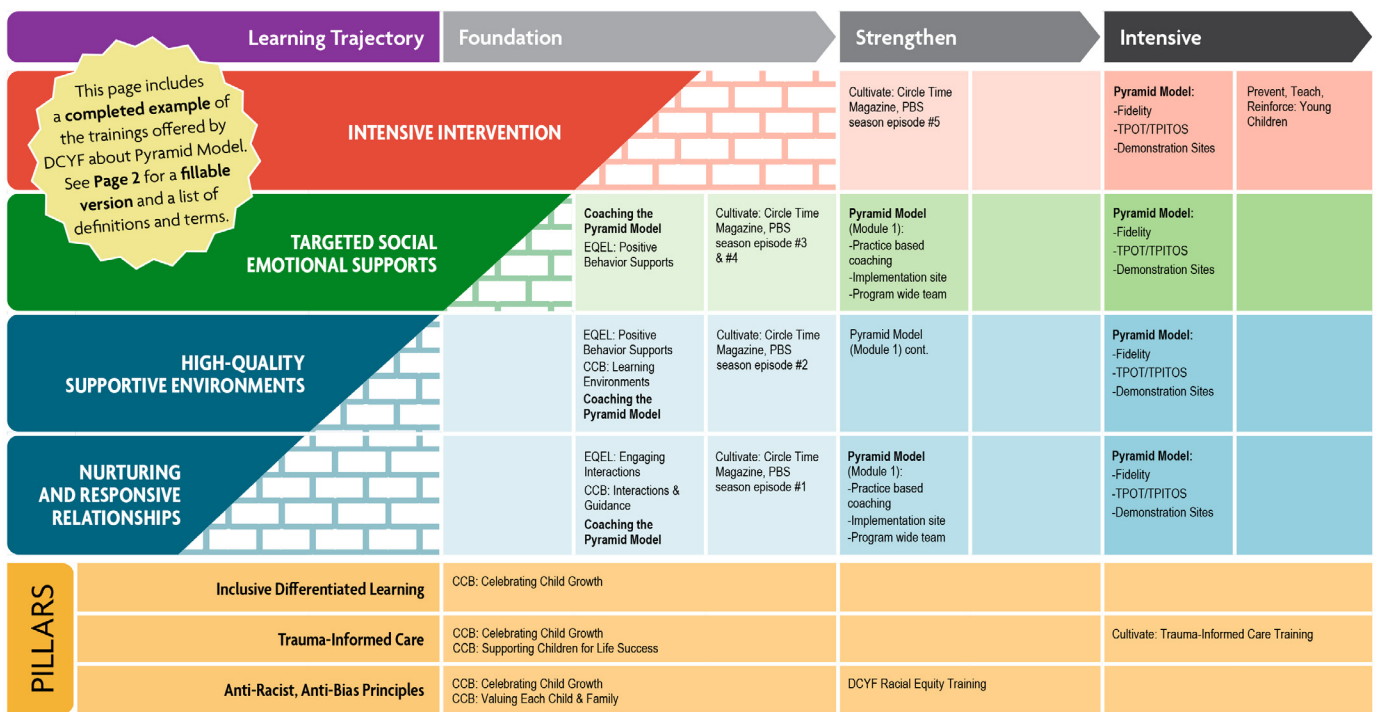
Find updates to the Pyramid Model alignment at <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-profdev/workforce-development/initiatives>

## The Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children’s healthy social and emotional development. OSPI and DCYF work in close partnership with other state partners on a State Leadership Team working toward implementation of the Pyramid Model for early learning programs in Washington.

### How can I use this tool?

This tool is designed to illustrate how training you may select or may have completed fits within the Pyramid Model. It can help you in selecting the best training options to learn more about the Pyramid Model. If you’ve completed training already, you can see how it relates to the Pyramid Model and can help you in your own implementation of Pyramid Model practices. Agencies who deliver training can also make connections in their training related to Pyramid Model.



To download the publication *Pyramid Model (EPS\_0073)*, go to [www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS\\_0073.pdf](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0073.pdf).