

## McPherson/Marion County Head Start

Revised 1/2011

Mental Health

Classroom Observation and Consultation Policy:

Head Start Performance Standards for Child Mental Health requires that all children are periodically observed in the classroom, and that the mental health professional doing the observation consult with the classroom staff about the classroom environment and about any concerns regarding individual children's social-emotional development.

Procedure:

1. A minimum of one classroom observation will be scheduled for all Head Start classrooms. A classroom observation may also occur if a classroom has a change in Teacher and /or teacher assistant; a new child enrollment; or a major life crisis occurs for a child.
2. At the request of the classroom teacher, the Mental Health Consultant can do targeted consultation around classroom issues. Examples of this would be how to teach a social emotional skill to the class or how to deal differently with transitions.
3. All formal classroom mental health observations will be done by an individual who meets the requirements for "Qualified Mental Health Professional" as defined in OAR 309-032-0180(9).
4. Mental health observations will be recorded by the Mental Health Consultant. The Disability/Mental Health (D/MH) Coordinator will enter the observation into Child Plus.
5. The Mental Health Consultant will provide feedback to the classroom staff on ways to enhance children's social/emotional development: and any potential issues surrounding an individual child's social/emotional interactions and development. The Education Coordinator will be invited to participate in the discussion of the mental health observation.
6. Any potential classroom concerns which might negatively impact a child's social/emotional development identified during the observation will be discussed with the classroom staff and the Education Coordinator. The Director, Education Coordinator and the D/MH Coordinator will determine how to follow up on the identified concern of the Mental Health Consultant.
7. The D/MH Coordinator will arrange all observations and follow up meetings.