

# Pathways to Quality

## Social Emotional Coaching and Training



### ► Project Description



In recent years, we've seen a disturbing number of children suspended or expelled from child care programs as a result of disruptive behaviors and social-emotional challenges, and children of color are disproportionately affected. We know that when a child is expelled from an early learning environment, or a provider tells a parent that they can no longer provide care for their child, it is the provider—not the child—who is unprepared to handle certain behaviors.

Think Small responded by providing developmentally appropriate trainings and resources to help providers support each child's social-emotional development and reduce suspensions and expulsions. This fits within our strategic plan of ensuring every child receives the right dosage of high-quality early childhood programming to prepare them for kindergarten. Our model is a combination of training and coaching, with the goal of changing adult behavior to support children's positive outcomes. Think Small provided all-day Super Saturdays trainings, coupled with the opportunity to receive 6–12 months of relationship-based coaching to support the skills and knowledge of social-emotional development.

### ► Impact

Super Saturday trainings were very successful and often had wait lists. More than 130 participants have received training under P2Q. A social and emotional coach attends each training session and recruits providers for the coaching. As a result, 42 providers received enhanced social-emotional coaching. We continue to see demand for this training.



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## ► Impact (continued)

Providers who have received social-emotional coaching are much more likely to have clear policies on suspension and expulsion, as well as establish clear behavior guidelines (figure A). Also, we saw an increase in the number of times coaches observed providers recognizing successful opportunities to support the development of self-regulation in the classroom (figure B).

Finally, providers who receive the coaching supports report feeling significantly more confident and competent in supporting children's social and emotional well-being, and better able to engage with families about their child's social and emotional health.

## ► Challenges/Opportunities

Providing enhanced social-emotional supports to providers is a scalable model. The Department of Human Services has recognized this by implementing mental health consultation services and making them available to all providers participating in Parent Aware.

## ► Next Steps

As the social-emotional well-being of children viewed through the lens of reducing expulsion and suspension becomes a larger issue, Think Small can be a resource to provide effective ways to move the needle. Providing enhanced social-emotional coaching and training will take additional funding. However, that funding could easily be combined with the existing Child Care Development Block Grant to continue to provide enhanced services within Minneapolis and St. Paul and throughout the state. This could be accomplished through the practice of mental health consultation along with one-on-one intensive trainings.

Figure A

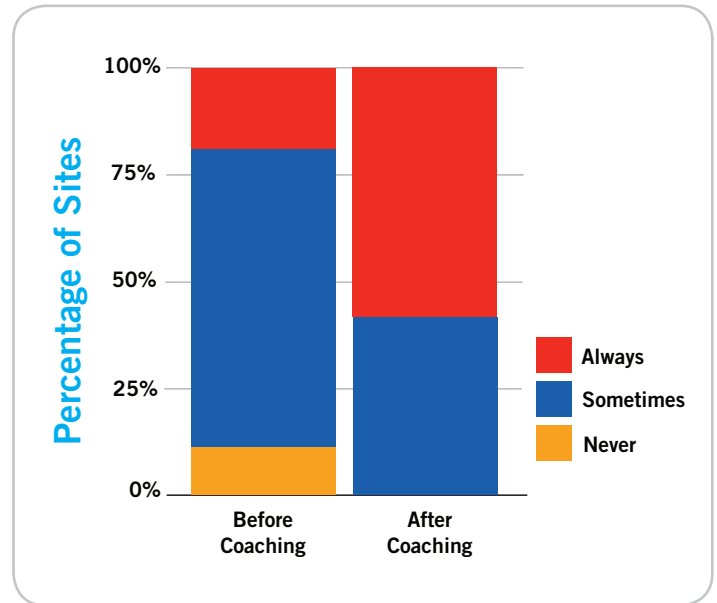
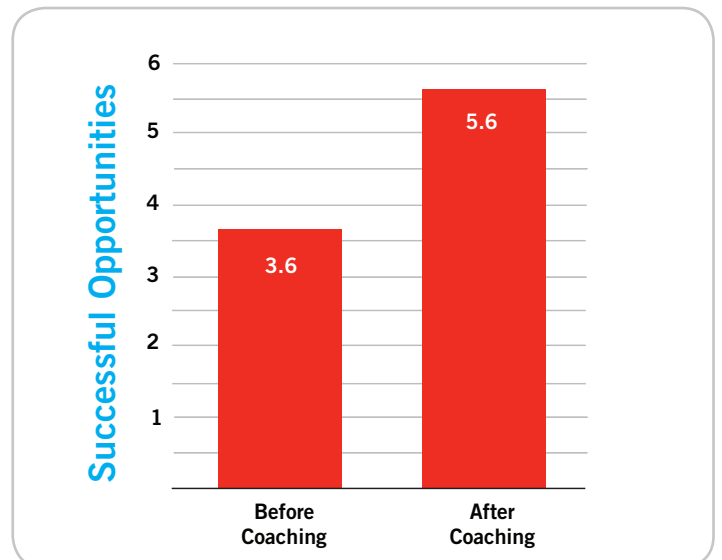


Figure B



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