

The Pyramid Model is a framework for supporting the social and emotional development of our children, the foundation of what every child needs to succeed in school, in the workplace, and beyond. Simple skills such as learning how to get along with others, work as a team, be flexible, be kind, be a good friend, and be responsible are part of the first steps to academic and workplace success - and to becoming a good citizen.

Our goal is to create an environment where every child feels good about coming to school, by building and expanding on positive relationships between everyone at Margaret's House - children, families, and staff. We are also reviewing our behavioral expectations and working towards providing more intentional instruction around social skills.

We believe that in the first 5 years, children are developing and experimenting with the social skills that they will be using and returning to throughout their lives, so we are going to create, model, and nurture the most positive environment we can.

One of the pieces of the Pyramid Model is the collection of data, so that we can assess progress and make better decisions about future steps. In order to collect data through the Pyramid Model, we use a system called PIDS. That requires your consent and we need to hear back from you whether or not you are providing your consent for this data system.

Whether or not you wish to provide your consent, we do need the completed form signed and returned to us to complete your child's enrollment here at Margaret's House.

Here is the link to the form (found on our website):

https://www.rit.edu/margarethouse/sites/rit.edu.margarethouse/files/2024-07/0%2012%20PIDS%20Parent-Guardian%20Consent%20Form_1.pdf

If you have any questions, please do let us know. Here is some additional information about the Pyramid Model:



Research¹ has shown that the skills your child needs to be successful in the future are social and emotional skills!

The more socially skilled children are, the more likely they are to succeed in school. Because this is so important for your child, we are using the Pyramid Model in our program.



What is the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model is a framework for supporting the social and emotional development of our children. The goal of the Pyramid Model is to create an environment where every child feels good about coming to school. This is accomplished by designing classrooms that promote engagement in learning and by building positive relationships among children, families, and staff. In our use of the Pyramid Model, our classroom staff will work together to ensure that all children understand behavior expectations, receive instruction in social skills, and those who are struggling receive individual support.

The Pyramid Model illustrates that the foundation for helping children develop social and emotional skills is nurturing and responsive relationships and high quality environments. The middle of the Pyramid, teaching of social and emotional skills, is provided to all children with some children receiving additional teaching and support. The top of the Pyramid shows that a few children will need the foundation, the middle AND individualized intervention to address challenging behavior.

To use the Pyramid Model, our program established a leadership team that will provide ongoing support to our staff and families. Our leadership team looks forward to sharing some of the important work we are doing, including teaching program-wide expectations, partnering with families, training staff in teaching strategies, providing classroom coaching to help teachers implement, and using data for decision-making. Stay tuned for ongoing updates about the Pyramid Model in our program!

¹ Jones, D. E., Greenberg, M., & Crowley, M. (2015). Early social-emotional functioning and public health: The relationship between kindergarten social competence and future wellness. *American Journal of Public Health, 105*, 2283-2290.

What is gained by using the Pyramid Model?

FAMILIES

- Receive information on how to help promote children's social and emotional skills
- Team with teachers to help children grow and learn
- Receive support for preventing and addressing behavior problems

TEACHERS

- Are effective in helping children learn social and emotional skills
- Strengthen classroom management skills
- Have information and resources to support families

CHILDREN

- Increase their social and emotional skills
- Improve in their readiness for kindergarten