



Implementation Science and the Pyramid Plus Center: www.pyramidplus.org

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A foundation of the work of Pyramid Plus: The Colorado Center on Social Emotional Competence and Inclusion is what is referred to as “implementation science”. Implementation science describes the key strategies for ensuring that evidence-based practices actually get used at the practitioner and child and family level with fidelity (or as the research had intended). These strategies are the bridge between knowing what the practice is and actually being able to use it with fidelity. These strategies include:

- individual and team leadership to provide the supports for the practitioner to use the practice with fidelity
- on-site coaching to the practitioner to provide feedback as they use the practice
- data collection to ensure that the practice is being used with fidelity and is having the intended outcomes on program, practitioner and child

We not only need effective program models, we need effective implementation strategies to ensure that what we know works is put into practice as intended. In short, implementation science focuses on the “how” of using evidence-based practices (the “what”).

The “what” of Pyramid Plus is the Pyramid Model practices along with other evidence-based social emotional practices (e.g. PTR-YC) and inclusion practices (e.g. SpecialQuest, Building Blocks, LEAP). The “how” or the implementation strategies of Pyramid Plus are:

- A State Leadership Team that guides the implementation, scale-up and sustainability of the Pyramid Plus
- Certifying trainers and coaches to ensure fidelity of implementation state-wide
- Demonstration Sites that, through a leadership team, have systematically adopted, implemented, sustained and scaled-up the Pyramid Plus practices over 3-4 years and have data systems to ensure fidelity of implementation and for data based decision making and tracking outcomes
- Implementation Communities that have a leadership team, certified trainers and coaches and implementation programs that serve as demonstrations for their community
- Data collection on all components to ensure fidelity of implementation, to provide feedback for quality improvement and to ensure that programs remain at high fidelity over time (preventing “drift”)
- Partnering with demonstration sites, coaches, trainers and Implementation Communities in a systematic, State-wide scale-up of the Pyramid Plus practices.

Following the framework of implementation science, the Pyramid Plus Center recognizes that there are myriad points at which gaps in knowledge and practice might occur that can impede evidence-based practices from producing their intended outcomes. On the continuum of approaches to implementation of evidence-based practices - from “letting it happen” to “helping it happen” to “making it happen” (Greenhalgh, Robert, MacFarlane, Bate, and Kyriakidou, 2004) - the Pyramid Plus Center takes a “making it happen” approach through use of the above implementation strategies.