

# Every Child Belongs

## Common Definitions



### Introduction

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These definitions are from the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for Every Child Belongs, DELC's early childhood suspension and expulsion prevention program. They can be found on the Secretary of State's website at this link: [secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=7425](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=7425).

They were developed by two Rulemaking Advisory Committees (RAC), convened by the Department of Early Learning and Care. Each committee was composed of child care providers, Child Care Union members, parents/family members, technical assistance professionals, infant and early childhood mental health consultants, advocates, and other interested members from the early learning system. The first was convened in 2022 and defined most of the terms below. The second RAC was convened in 2026, and was responsible for reviewing, revising, and adding new definitions. They were adopted by the Early Learning Council on June 24, 2026, and became effective September 1, 2026.

The definitions below serve to provide shared language when talking about the Every Child Belongs initiative and Every Child Belongs services. They are intended as helpful terms for providers, families, technical assistance professionals, infant and early childhood mental health consultants, and other people interested in how Every Child Belongs defines terms related to suspension and expulsion prevention.

### Common Definitions

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**"Exclusionary Practices"** means any action taken by an Early Learning and Care Program that limits the enrollment, participation, or attendance of a Young Child due to the Young Child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior.

**"Expulsion" or "Expel"** means to permanently end a Young Child's enrollment in an Early Learning and Care program due to the Young Child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior.

**"Planned Transition"** means the transition of a Young Child's enrollment from one Early Learning and Care Program to a different Early Learning and Care Program due to a Young Child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior. For a change of enrollment to be considered a Planned Transition, the plan must be developed collaboratively with the family, the staff of the Early Learning and Care Program, and a professional consultant or support specialist. The Early Learning and Care Program receiving the Young Child may be involved in creating the transition plan, when appropriate.

**"Soft Expulsion"** means actions taken by an Early Learning and Care Program due to a Young Child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior that make the program an unviable arrangement for the family or Young Child and leaves the family with little choice but to withdraw the Young Child from the program.

**"Supported Break"** means a brief, time-limited period that a Young Child spends apart from the early care and education environment, or from a specific activity within the environment, for the purpose of a supportive co-regulation or sensory break. A Supported Break occurs with the active engagement of an adult in the Early Learning and Care Program.

**"Suspension"** means reductions in the amount of time a Young Child may be in attendance of an Early Learning and Care Program, such as requiring the Young Child to cease attendance for a temporary period of time or reducing the number days or hours that the Young Child may attend due to the child's ability, specialized need, or behavior. A suspension may occur either as In-Program Suspension or Out-of-Program Suspension.

**"In-Program Suspension"** means temporarily removing the Young Child from the classroom or group setting due to the child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior by sending the Young Child to a different location within the program or building. A Supported Break is not an in-Program Suspension.

**"Out-of-Program Suspension"** means dismissing or sending the Young Child home early, prohibiting them from returning to the program for one or more days, or reducing the hours the Young Child spends per week in the program due to the child's ability, specialized needs, or behavior.

**"Young Child"** means any child who is six weeks of age until eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten on or before the first day of the current school year.

Please note that these terms relate to the suspension and expulsion prevention law (HB2166, ORS 329A.600) and not the suspension and expulsion prohibition law (SB236, ORS 329A.625). For questions related to the prohibition law, please consult an attorney.

You are entitled to language assistance services and other accommodations at no cost. If you need help in your language or other accommodations, please contact the DELC at 503-947-1400.