



## TEACHER-CHILD INTERACTION TRAINING (TCIT)



Dear Teacher and Para-Educator,

Your School District has expressed interest in collaboration with Riverside County Department of Mental Health, Preschool 0-5 Program to provide Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT) to selected Teachers and Para-Educators. The purpose of this letter is to introduce ourselves to you and provide a brief description of what TCIT training will include.

The Preschool 0-5 Program has been providing a specialized program for disruptive children and their parents over the past 9 years called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). Our department was trained by UC Davis CAARE Center in PCIT starting in 2003. The PCIT program has been adapted for pre-school teachers since educators face the challenge of managing disruptive children in their educational setting which impacts the ability to teach the entire classroom effectively. The adapted program is entitled, TCIT. The program is intended to be very brief (up to three months) and is primarily geared towards teacher and Para-Educator skills acquisition for pre-school, kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. As part of this training, teachers and Para-Educators will attend a day-long training (6 hours) and will participate in skills building through role play and then direct application to the classroom. Therapists from our agency will provide weekly intervention following the same brief model that will be presented to the teachers in the training. The following is a time line of how the training and experiential phase will happen:

**Program Development:** Riverside County DMH, Preschool 0-5 Program psychologist will provide training to the therapists in our agency related to TCIT.

**School Site Visit Prior to Teacher TCIT Training:** Therapists from our agency will make a classroom visit. They will be asking teachers to complete a couple questionnaires, a child behavior checklist for identified children, and will observe the classroom activities – taking notes on the interactions that occur, specifically during a change in activity within the classroom. This information will be used to determine our ‘baseline’ of activities and interactions that are occurring now.

**Teacher Training in TCIT:** Therapists from our agency will provide a day-long training (6 hours) to the teachers and Para-Educators.

**Follow-up Site Visits:** Therapists from our agency will continue to make school site visits, typically once a week for 8 weeks, to practice the skills introduced during the training and to assist in specific problematic areas. The therapist will assist in implementing TCIT techniques in classrooms and to facilitate a group discussion with teachers and Para-Educators regarding your experiences in utilizing TCIT techniques.

**Outcome Evaluation:** Therapists will be asking teachers to complete questionnaires, a child behavior checklist for identified children, and will observe the classroom activities, taking notes on the interactions that occur, specifically during a change in activity within the classroom. This information will be used to determine our ‘post intervention’ gains. The goal of TCIT is to reduce behavioral problems of students which impact teachers, Para-Educators and classroom peers by increasing teachers/Para-Educators skills set to those commonly used by therapist treating oppositional and defiant children.