

## Preschool Team Basics

The *Preschool Team* expands The Guidance Center's continuum of services for young children, beginning with our infant-toddler service programs (*Cambridge-Somerville Early Intervention, Healthy Families of Cambridge and Somerville* and *Early Intervention Partnership Program*). *Preschool Team* members are early childhood specialists trained to help families who have children under age 6 with issues related to children's development, challenging behaviors and family needs.

Parents and caregivers can contact the *Preschool Team* for a variety of reasons. Children may be having hard time dealing with family circumstances such as:

- Separation or divorce
- Exposure to violence
- Substance abuse
- Illness
- Death of a loved one

Adults may also seek assistance when children are:

- Oppositional or aggressive
- Exceptionally shy
- Experiencing sleep difficulties
- Distressed about transitions or new situations
- Acting in "babyish" ways or losing previously mastered skills

Team members work collaboratively to gather information, make recommendations, provide services and obtain necessary resources to best support the social-emotional development of young children. Services are provided at home, in community settings (including child care programs) and in The Guidance Center's offices.

## Agency Overview

Since 1954, The Guidance Center has been a leading provider of innovative developmental, mental health and family support services to children and families in Massachusetts. Our staff is trained to address a range of health and family challenges, including pre-mature births, developmental delays or disabilities, depression and domestic violence.



The Guidance Center has programs for children ages birth to 22 years and their families.

### Preschool Team

A program of The Guidance Center, Inc.

Referral Coordinator:

Melanie Branski  
617.354.2275 x126

### The Guidance Center, Inc.

Main Office  
5 Sacramento Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Tel: 617.354.2275  
Fax: 617.547.4356

[www.gcinc.org](http://www.gcinc.org)



Falamos português  
Hablamos español  
Nou pale kreyl  
Nous parlons français

PST080610

## Preschool Team

a PROGRAM of



NURTURING health and hope in  
children, families and community

PROGRAM BROCHURE

## Clinical Services for Families

At The Guidance Center, we understand that raising children can be a stressful job and that families may need help along the way. Families contact the *Preschool Team* for a variety of services including:

- Individual and family treatment
- Home and/or school based treatment
- Caregiver supports
- Psychological testing
- Psychiatric consultation
- Psychopharmacological evaluation and treatment
- Collaboration with physicians
- Consultation to child care programs and schools



### Preschool Team Staff Includes:

- Mental Health Clinicians
- Family Support Workers
- Early Childhood Educators
- Other Consultants as needed

### Obtaining Preschool Team Services:

Services provided to children and families are generally covered by a family's health insurance. A sliding fee scale is also available to families who qualify. ***If you have questions or would like to make a referral, please contact:***

**Melanie Branski, Referral Coordinator**  
617.354.2275 x126



## Services for Child Care Settings

### READY to LEARN!

Children attending preschool who have not yet developed social skills are often considered to have “difficult” or “challenging” behavior. *READY to LEARN* is designed to help the adults in a child's life – family members, teachers, support staff, etc. – identify and plan together to meet the child's individual needs. Our goal is to help the preschooler participate fully and have successful learning experiences so that he/she is *READY to LEARN!*

### Early Childhood Developmental Screening Services (ECDSS)

In partnership with child care programs and playgroups in the community, *ECDSS* provides developmental screenings for children under age six. We know it is important to understand how children are developing, to identify individual needs, and to address challenges early so that each child may achieve his/her fullest potential.



The Guidance Center: Nurturing health and hope in children, families and community