SERC Library:
Topical Literature Search

The Positive Impact of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):
Supporting Young Children in Preschool & School Readiness Programs - April 2018

This resource guide, which is one of a series on this topic, includes research and other recent informative articles pulled from literature and the Library’s educational database service for schools, programs, service providers and families focusing on the reciprocal connection between social and emotional learning (SEL) and increased academic achievement for children in diverse early care and classroom settings in ways that support and engage all learners to be successful. It should be noted that it does not represent the full scope of resources and information available on this topic nor serve as an endorsement of a particular resource.

Introductory Article:
SEL Interventions in Early Childhood
Future Of Children, 27(1), 33.

The authors of this article examine the theory and science behind early childhood social and emotional learning (SEL) interventions. Reviewing evaluation results, they find that several interventions are promising, though we need to know more about how and why their results vary for different groups of children.

Three strategies appear to make interventions more successful, according to the authors. First, many effective SEL interventions include training or professional development for early childhood teachers; some also emphasize building teachers’ own SEL skills. Second, effective interventions embed direct instruction and practice of targeted skills into daily activities, giving children repeated opportunities to practice SEL skills in different contexts; it’s best if these activities grow more complex over time. Third, effective interventions engage children’s families, so that kids have a chance to work on their SEL skills both at school and at home. Family components may include teaching adults how to help children build SEL skills or teaching adults themselves how to practice and model such skills.

To learn more:

For access to additional educational resources available through the SERC Library from its electronic journal database service and topical research LibGuides as well as in-person from the various instructional, assessment and other collections, please consider becoming a Library member. Membership is free and you can join online by following the link provided below.

Learning from the Positive Impact of SERC Library Support

A Mixed-Method Examination of Preschool Teacher Beliefs About Social-Emotional Learning and Relations to Observed Emotional Support


Accounting for the Whole Child


Associations Between Preschoolers’ Social-Emotional Competence and Preliteracy Skills


Early Childhood Teachers as Socializers of Young Children’s Emotional Competence


Empirically Valid Strategies To Improve Social And Emotional Competence Of Preschool Children


How Preschoolers’ Social-Emotional Learning Predicts Their Early School Success: Developing Theory-Promoting, Competency-Based Assessments


Key considerations in assessing young children’s emotional competence


“Plays Nice With Others”: Social-Emotional Learning and Academic Success


Promoting Academic and Social-Emotional School Readiness: The Head Start REDI Program


Promoting Social and Emotional Learning in Preschool


Social-emotional Development in the Digital Age


Social-Emotional Learning in the Primary Curriculum


Strong Social-Emotional Skills = Student Success


Supporting Early Childhood Social-Emotional Well Being: The Building Blocks for Early Learning and School Success


Links to Information

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List of Sources:


