



Think about your social experiences in the past year...

Have you ever...

Been in a situation that made you feel uncomfortable?

- a. Yes—plenty of times!
- b. Yes, but fewer than five times
- c. No—everything is just great

How would you normally handle it?

- a. I don't know what to do, so I do nothing.
- b. I walk away.
- c. I nod and smile.
- d. I share later with a close someone.
- e. I confront the situation.

Social Skills:

Promoting Positive Behavior, Academic Success, & School Safety

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Room 304

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THIS EVENING'S QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why is teaching social skills important?
- 2. What are developmentally appropriate social skills for K-8 students?
- 3. How do we teach social skills?

WHY IS TEACHING SOCIAL SKILLS IMPORTANT?

For students to enter the community of responsible adults prepared for a diversity of social roles, they must possess critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as interpersonal sensitivity.

--M.J Elias and SE Tobias, 1996

- Good social skills are critical to successful functioning in life.
- These skills enable us to ...
 - know what to say
 - make good choices
 - behave appropriately in diverse situations.

What can we expect in grades K-4?

• Social

- Eager to please
- Learning friendship
- Small groups
- Begin to observe others
- Beginning empathy
- Family oriented
- Dependent on adults

• Emotional

- Golden Rule
- Cooperative over competitive
- Avoiding punishment drives behaviors
- Easily hurt
- Play by the rules, but losing is hard to accept

• Intellectual

- Organized, logical, creative thoughts
- Concrete
- Process over product
- Learning to sort and categorize
- Singular mental operations
- Demonstration aids in understanding

What can we expect in grades 5-8

• Social

- Adults viewed as authority
- Misbehavior is punished
- Feedback—what did they do well, what to do next time
- Don't like comparisons with others; individual evaluation preferred
- Loyal to group
- Growing reasoning

• Emotional

- Obeying rules is correct behavior
- Accept family beliefs
- Emulate older children
- Emphasize success
- Leadership develops
- Growing more responsible
- Question authority
- Look to adults for guidance/approval
- Competition is difficult

• Intellectual

- Vary in ability
- Increased attention span
- Varied interests
- Becoming logical thinkers
- Prefer concrete ideas
- Using good judgment, but often in absolutes
- Use skills to explore
- Collections and hobbies
- Share thoughts

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ADULTS TO REINFORCE THE CASUAL LEARNING OF SOCIAL SKILLS WITH DIRECT AND INDIRECT INSTRUCTION!

How do we teach social skills?

- Weekly or bi-weekly lessons
- Developmentally appropriate instruction
- Offering opportunities to help all students maximize their academic engagement, social “connectedness,” motivation, and pursuit of excellence.
- Through **modeling**, promoting **generalization**, and **reinforcement**!

Grades K-2: Stop and Think

- Topics:
 - Listening
 - Following Directions
 - Using Nice Talk
 - Asking for Help
 - Waiting your Turn
 - How to Interrupt
 - Ignoring
 - Dealing with Teasing
 - Dealing with Losing
 - Accepting Consequences

- And also...
Bucketfiller



Grades 3-4: Social Decision Making

- Topics: Grade 3

Grade 4

- Respectful Listening
- Strategies for Remembering
- Role Playing
- Be Your Best
- Good Teammate Behaviors
- Giving and Receiving Praise
- Trigger Situations and Feelings Fingerprints
- Keep Calm

Grades 5-8: Social Decision Making

- Topics:
 - Classroom Constitution/Group Rules
 - Putting Down Put-downs
 - Self-calming
 - Confident and Effective Communication
 - Trigger Situations
 - Trouble-tracking
 - Become a Good Decision-maker
 - Practice Recognizing Feelings
- Keep Calm!

THANK YOU!

Together, we can instruct and model positive social behavior!

- Social skills give students self-confidence and a sense of well-being.
- Healthy, happy learners learn better and learn more!

