

Social and Emotional Development Strategies: A Summary

General teaching strategies that support social and emotional development

- Create a supportive environment.
- Help children make the transition from home to school.
- Arrange and equip the classroom for social interactions.
- Implement predictable schedules and routines to create a secure community.
- Foster specific skills through modeling, coaching, and providing opportunities for practice.

Teaching strategies that support self-identity

- Focus on children throughout the day
- Address diversity and differences positively.
- Provide nonstereotyped materials, activities, and role models.
- Encourage family members to become involved in the program.
- Establish ties within the community.

Teaching strategies that support a sense of competence

- Encourage self-help skills consistent with children's abilities and developmental levels.
- Scaffold learning by introducing the next level of challenge when children are ready to move on.
- Support children's ideas and initiatives.
- Acknowledge children's efforts and accomplishments.
- Provide opportunities for children to be the leaders.

Teaching strategies that support emotions

- Accept children's full range of emotions as normal.
- Name or label children's emotions as well as your own.
- Call attention to the feelings of others.
- Comment on and discuss feelings throughout the day.

Teaching strategies that support empathy

- Model caring behavior.
- Acknowledge and label the feelings that children have in common.
- Create opportunities for children to act with empathy.
- Practice perspective-taking in nonsocial situations.

Teaching strategies that support community

- Create an atmosphere that fosters mutual respect and responsibility.
- Call attention to activities the whole class participates in.
- Involve children in the community outside the classroom.

Teaching strategies that support building relationships

- Interact with children in a genuine and authentic manner.
- Maintain a stable group of children and adults
- Support the relationships that children establish with one another.
- Provide opportunities for children to interact with others with whom they are less familiar.
- Refer children to one another.

Teaching Strategies that support cooperative play

- Encourage children to plan, work, and recall together.
- Provide opportunities for collaboration at group times.
- Help aggressive or withdrawn children join their peers.
- Play as partners with children.

Teaching strategies that support moral development

- Model moral development.
- State situations that involve moral matters in simple cause-and-effect terms.
- Acknowledge children's moral behaviors.
- Involve parents to achieve as much consistency as possible between home and school values.

Teaching strategies that support conflict resolution

- Establish a safe classroom with clear expectations.
- Use multistep approach to conflict resolution.
- Help children reflect on problem-solving strategies apart from actual conflict situations.

Reference -The HighScope Preschool Curriculum Set
Social Emotional Development Book page 121
Ann S Epstein. PhD