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The Contribution of Social and Emotional Skills to Children's Mental Health Development

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Abstract

Mental health in children is influenced by their social and emotional skills developed during childhood, which are important in managing stress, negotiating other people and adapt to the challenges of life. Social and emotional skills' role in promoting children's mental health outcomes is explored in this essay. Psychological development and emotional health dependence on self-regulation, emotional awareness, resilience and social and emotional skills like empathy, communication and cooperation. Children with strong social-emotional abilities have been found to have improved coping strategies, reduced levels of anxiety and depression, and improved academic performance. Early interventions to enhance these skills can also promote self-efficacy and social integration, as well as reduce the likelihood of mental health disorders. The study also examines how these skills are shaped by the home, school, and community settings, and it comes to the conclusion that a thorough approach to developing social and emotional intelligence can benefit mental health in the short and long term. Finally, as a proactive step to support children's mental health and wellness, the study recommends that school curricula incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) programs.

Key Words: Social Skills, Emotional Skills, Mental Health, Emotional Regulation, Self-Awareness, Empathy, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Self-Esteem, Stress Management, Emotional Intelligence

Introduction

For example, social and emotional competencies constitute skills in creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, perseverance and self control. Social and emotional competencies are considered to be important determinants of cognitive abilities and more general academic and personal outcome. They are "related to academic achievement, productivity, collegiality at work and life outcomes" (Credé and Phillips, 2013). Social and emotional functions, which are more flexible rather than fixed and conducive to tenacity, feeling of community, educator interaction, and positive attitude towards education are affected by surroundings of the child, parental involvement and the quality of the school all.

It is then necessary to have social and emotional skills fostered at school policy, programs, and practice. Social emotional skill development is a top priority of growth and creation of positive growth by developing the social and emotional competencies which are the basis for mental health and success in the life. These

skills include being able to understand and control emotions and behavior, solve interpersonal and personal problems, provide constructive methods of coping with difficult situations, as well as building confidence and developing a strong sense of self esteem. They help kids deal with adversity, teach healthy connections and become more resilient and better able to handle life's obstacles.

The elements that affect mental health and the growth of social and emotional competencies:

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning:

It is the subject 'process in which children as well as adults understand and control emotions, achieve and achieve the constructive purpose, feel and show empathy towards each other, create and maintain a constructive relationship, and take responsible decisions.' Bearing in mind that acquiring basic skills such as teamwork, self control, doing the right thing, attending, children must be capable of having social emotional skills to acquire what they need like and they must possess good mental health as per definition.

Mental health branches out to all types of social, emotional and psychological well-being. Stress management, the way you interact with others and the way you make decisions all affect a person's thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Childhood stress harms the hippocampus (a part of the brain that's linked to memory and learning) and this can lead to mental health problems and other health problems in future. Reasons Children Became Mentally Ill: The three main causes for children being mentally ill were familial and genetic risk, environmental risk, and ethnicity. genetics and family risk factors: There are some family traits, including poverty, family violence, a parent who misuses substances and mother (or other family member's) depression or some other emotional or behavioural problems, that potentially increase a child's vulnerability to social, emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Significant health problems, developmental delays, and fussy temperament are examples of within-child risk factors that might exacerbate a child's mental and emotional problems. The development of young children from families with lower family incomes is more likely to be adversely affected by mental health problems. As per Green-berg, Rostropovich, Weinberg, &Dullard, young children who have these risk factors are two to three times more likely to have issues with aggression, anxiety and depression, and hyperactivity. An example of an environmental risk factor includes living in a hazardous neighborhood, getting care in a subpar childcare facility, not having access to community resources and no laws in place to help families raise healthy children.

Early kids at lower incomes are more prone to present behavioural issues than those elevated incomes or only moderately incomes. Ethnicity: More common factors that increase the risk of poor social, emotional, and behavioral development are present in young children of color. Stressful events affect low-income and ethnic minority students more adversely in the United States than in other countries in terms of their academic performance and quality of life.

These kids are over represented in child welfare and for the most part are preschool expelled children and children who are receiving special mental health treatment. Social and Emotional Development is important for the Development of Children's Mental Health because social emotional competency development in school environments helps reduce mental illness and violence and also increases academic performance and interpersonal relationships. Social emotional learning programs and activities that are serving more than half of the programs and activities focus on skill development of the people that are in the classroom environment. The study found that classroom atmosphere quality is associated with teachers' social emotional abilities. They also showed that teachers are well adapted for imparting the competencies in the social-emotional learning programs for kids oriented towards this competency in particular.

According to CASEL, fostering competence, self-esteem, mastery and social inclusion will prevent and treat mental, emotional and behavioural illnesses. In the Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health, the significance of social emotional skills and mental health promotion to the highest quality of the child's development and academic achievement is also expressed.

Social and Emotional Skills' Contribution to Mental Health Development

Social emotional standards are currently being developed and implemented in some U.S. states, as well as elsewhere. For instance, Illinois State Board of Education has recently adopted three broad learning objectives for students to use social emotional skills in their student learning standards: (a) to build self awareness and self management to succeed academically and in life; (b) to build interpersonal skills and social awareness to make and sustain positive relationships; and, (c) to demonstrate decision making abilities and engage in responsible behavior in personal, academic, and community arenas. Federal, state, and local governments have begun to recognize the importance of social emotional skills in education more and more. A series of programs has been set in place to help schools improve the health and decrease the range of drug abuse, violent crimes or risky sexual conduct.

Strategies for Improving Mental Health and Social and Emotional Skills:

When Jobber-Martins, Lopez-Castillo, and Mujib, who used several game based dynamic and emotional journals to encourage young students to embrace daily health habits such as eating, sleeping, exercising and hygiene, found that they can substantially improve on social emotional skills and mental health. From the holistic point of view it gives a new way of enhancing the healthy lifestyle of the children. This is done to address an important area of children's growth — social and emotional competency. Another study looked at the use of mental simulations to help preschoolers develop emotional skill. During the mental simulation, there were hints as to how one could identify and understand the emotions. The findings showed that mental simulations help kids to identify, understand and regulate their emotions.

In their study, Binaural and Nader-Grosbeaks examined the association between sociolect-emotional regulation on social information processing in 45 intellectually disabled children and 45 children with usual development. After examining certain social information processing and emotionalism regulating skills as reciprocal relationships, they discovered that both types of skills have diverse relationships with developmental age. At home, reinforcement of the same social and emotional skills must also be provided. Many social and emotional learning programs involve the ability for the community and family to contribute in fostering it. School based social and emotional learning for students, schools and families is beneficial in this way. Parents and caregivers have the opportunity to learn about the particular approach schools take (or not take) to promoting children's social and emotional learning.

In a meta analysis of 213 Universal school based SEL programs involving 270,034 students from kindergarten to high school, participants performed markedly better in academic performance, attitudes, behavior, social and emotional skill, with .11 percentile points better in academic gain. Furthermore, suggested programs of skill development helped school teaching staff to carry out SEL programs successfully. There was shown to be moderation of program results by implementation issues. The findings is consistent with the growing empirical evidence about the positive impact of SEL initiatives. All of which support the incorporation of evidence based SEL programs in the regular classroom instruction so as to foster children's healthy development.

Parents should model to children how to assert their needs, desires and thoughts in a confident way to know others. According to the age levels and children’s traits, this will enable them learn how to use assertive communication skills. To help boost a child’s confidence, parents should help the kids to discover and build on their own abilities. One reason they should be inspired and to explore new things and engage in fun things. Also, parents can identify their children’s struggles, recognize their effort, applaud their accomplishments and encourage them to keep trying and learning. Good connections, sharing experiences, time spent and presence will all help you to achieve all these.

Teachers can also model use of children’s social and emotional skills in many contexts in order to encourage them to use their skills in many other contexts. Further they should encourage students to imagine the type of scenario in which such abilities might come in handy. Below are some of the key elements of how communication can be used to develop basic social and emotional abilities (see figure 1).

Figure1: Social Emotional Skills Framework for Developing Fundamental Communication Skills

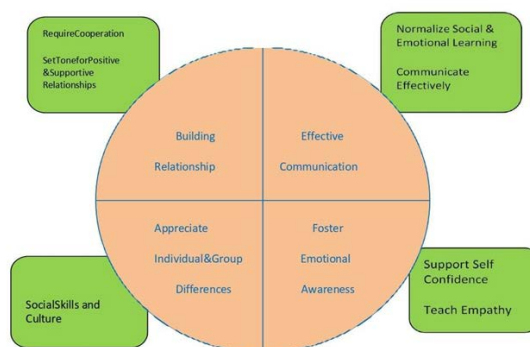


Figure 1 Social Emotional Skills Framework for Developing Fundamental Communication Skills

Four main pillars of adult social emotional skill development are: relationship building, effective communication, demonstrating emotional awareness and recognizing diversity of individual and groups. Social and emotional skills are taught to kids with methods that would fit each linguistic and cultural background giving rise to competent, deregulated, internalized and externalized conduct, in each element.

In groups, a variety of social skills are developed and relationships formed, so to work together cooperative skills are requisite. It creates an inclusive environment by engaging in conduct fostering a positive and courteous and considerate environment. One has to have both verbal and nonverbal communication qualities so as to manage those emotions, restoring peace to people, dispute resolution, and keeping friendships in tact. Adults should educate children to become self assured and as such, it is very important to acknowledge their work and to encourage their perseverance and hard work; it all begins with just understanding their contribution. This could lead to people to develop pleasant emotions, create a safe space, and as a result, take the feelings and opinions of others or teach them empathy. Adults have to understand individual and other group diversity to understand the linguistic and cultural backgrounds that the children come from, and the resulting needs and experiences. Subsequently, they have to make others respect both of them and have some regard for one another so that they can live together in this world.

A social-emotional skills development based model of support for mental health, Resilience based Interaction Model [RIM], is used to understand the interplay between the television characters, the community, and the audience. RIM aims for teachers to prepare them to assist in the mental and behavioral well being of children and guiding their language and behaviour in everyday interaction with the children. Character strengths, meaningful connections, and well-being are its three pillars.

There are certain elements of a healthy partnership that are considered as social structures such as love, kindness, friendship, gratitude, teamwork, optimism and so on. A couple of character strengths include play and conversational in group learning activities, which involve the use of language and posture to develop healthy behavior. On the whole, children do body-mind activities, such as movement— belly breathing, breathing bubbles, breathing butterflies, amongst others as part of their being well—and according to Bay-at, 2019.

Acknowledging to see their contributions and recognising their perseverance and hard work in that. Doing this allows people to expand their arsenal of pleasant feelings, make a secure place, and take into consideration others' feelings, opinions or teach compassion. Adults must recognize that children have unique and different linguistic and cultural backgrounds and understand what those have meant to them as experiences. They have to then build respecting and good feelings for one another, allowing them to live together in the society.

The Resilience based Interaction Model [RIM] is a support of the mental health, emphasizing social emotional skills development. As such, RIM aims at training teachers to promote the mental and behavioral health of children by shaping their language and behavior during everyday encounters with them. Its foundation is built on three pillars: character strengths, meaning connections, and well being.

The socializing structures that are part of a healthy partnership are love, kindness, friendship, gratitude, teamwork, optimism and growth mentality. Play and conversational in group learning activities among youngsters include the use of language and posture that inculcates healthy behavior. Children enjoy body – mind activities such as the belly breathing, breathing bubbles, and breathing butterflies as part of their overall well being, as indicated by Bay – at (2019).

Figure2: Resilience-based Interaction Model

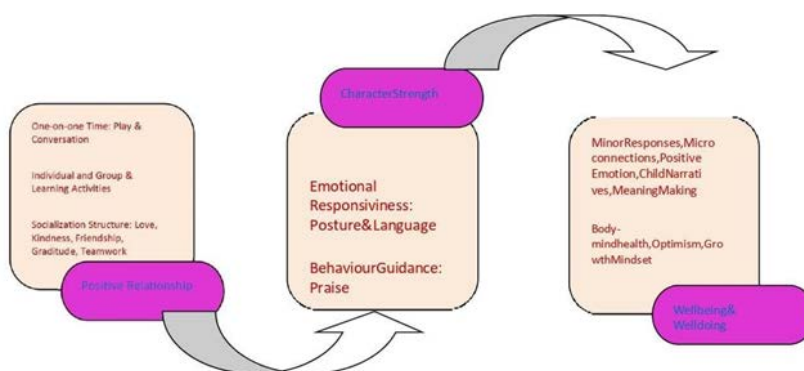


Figure 2 Resilience-based Interaction Model

As a strategy, the heartbeat is relaxed through joyful breathing bubbles, breathing butterflies, and belly breathing (Bay-at, 2019). Children are breathing out through the mouth, so they keep a bubble in their breathing bubble and breathe in by letting it go. The same type of method they use for belly breathing is employed by the children, where they are regulating their stomach or belly to inhale and to exhale. During inhalation, they close their hands by moving their hands and then open them to exhale while counting numbers 1, 2 and 3 to simulate a butterfly opening and closing its wings.

A sociolect-emotional framework can be a framework for many proof based prevention initiatives focused on character, sexuality, health, drug addiction, violence prevention, and social skills that the Collaborative for the Advancement of Sociolect and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has developed. These SEL skills should form a clear objective of public education and can be implemented by programs and policies like teacher training courses. Recommendations for improving knowledge about and professional integration of social and emotional competencies in practice and policy are provided here as follows:

- Restrict their definitions of social emotional competencies to what is both accurate and dependable measure.
- Increase evaluation and accountability in order for schools and instructors to directly state that they will provide for the development of non cognitive abilities and to do so in an explicit way for the development of the complete kid.
- Expansion of the curriculum in order to establish a good school atmosphere, to encourage teachers to invest in getting a good relationship with their students, and to allocate the instructional time towards practices that help the student develop cognitive and social emotional abilities.
- Expand the curriculum, develop ways to gauge kids’ skill development, figure out how to help teachers get the support and training they need.
- Review school disciplinary procedures in order to promote and enhance appropriate conduct and discourage misconduct.

Conclusion

In recent years it has been noticed that the social, emotional and mental well being of children have been of concern to the society. Strong social and emotional abilities help children to overcome challenges, to avoid mental health issues, and to be successful in social, academic and personal lives. In terms of mental health and social and emotional skill disorders, it is important to take children’s cultural and environmental backgrounds into account. Recently arrived children in the United States often struggle to understand social and emotional skills that the children in their class exercises in class, and this may negatively effect their mental health.

Research has shown that efforts to promote social and emotional learning that strengthen kids’ social and emotional skills among other things have a better chance at meeting objectives that involve improving students’ mental health. Aside from that, the teaching of children that would most likely fall prey to mental health disorder issues such as self-awareness, good communication, conflict resolution skills can prevent such a problem. Educators and those in charge of children’s social and emotional skills were trying to teach the children so they may grow up to be resilient and survive life’s pains to the extent they can maintain their health. That mental health needs to be addressed — in particular when SEL programs are real and integrated into school and community if the students are going to succeed in school, and in life.

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