



Coaching for Interactions that Support The Development of Positive Social Skills

Focus of this Video

- Why it's important to support children in developing positive social skills.
- What supporting children to do so looks like.
- Coaching strategies for this interaction.




Why It's Important to Support Children in Developing Positive Social Skills

- Positive social skills are important for children's overall development and well-being.
- They help children learn empathy, sharing, and cooperation, which can help them build healthy relationships.
- Social skills can also help children develop communication skills, boost self-esteem, and improve problem-solving and conflict resolution.
- Children with well-developed social skills have an easier time making friends and forming positive relationships as adults.
- Attending a school for the first time can be a major adjustment for children. Well-developed social skills will help make the transition smoother.



WHAT POSITIVE SOCIAL SKILLS LOOK LIKE FOR INFANTS

Infants are born social and develop social skills through interactions with their caregivers. Some early social skills include:

- Vocalizing: Responding to an adult talking or smiling
 - Smiling: Smiling at people when they talk or smile
 - Imitation: Imitating facial expressions
 - Eye contact: Making eye contact
 - Responding playfully to seeing themselves in a mirror
 - Cooperating with simple games
 - Singing along to songs
 - Offering hugs and kisses
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WHAT POSITIVE SOCIAL SKILLS LOOK LIKE FOR TODDLERS

As two-year-olds, children really begin to play interactively with their peers and develop their language, thinking and social skills.

Generally, toddlers can:

- Engage in pretend play, where they take on roles and develop their own ideas and stories.
- Demonstrate empathy—understanding the feelings of others.
- Recognize and identify the emotion(s) of a peer who is hurt or even cry when they see another child who is upset.
- Say “No!” and struggle with resolving conflicts with friends.
- Develop more advanced social play skills, such as sharing and turn-taking, over time as they near age 3 and beyond.

WHAT POSITIVE SOCIAL SKILLS LOOK LIKE FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Preschool children:

- Engage in associate play (less interaction) with peers.
- Engage in cooperative play with peers.
- Demonstrate empathy for a peer who is hurt or upset by offering comfort and help.
- Engage in problem solving and conflict resolution with support from educators.
- Develop friendship skills with peers.
- Identify, understand and regulate emotions.




STRATEGIES FOR INFANTS

Here are some ways to encourage positive social development:

- Talk to your baby: Talking to your baby instead of simply talking to someone else in the same room helps them develop communication and language skills.
- Respond when they share things with you: Responding when your baby shares things with you is helpful.
- Model good social behavior: Show your baby how to take turns and see things from others' perspectives.
- Read books or tell stories to babies: Use a quiet voice.
- Play games: Play games like "my turn, your turn" with a ball or toy.
- Let them touch your face and copy your facial expressions.



STRATEGIES FOR TODDLERS

- Help toddlers understand their feelings through play.
 - Help toddlers express their feelings in age-appropriate ways.
 - Encourage early friendships and offer play activities that don't involve sharing.
 - Ask children to imagine how their behavior might affect others.
 - Help toddlers to see others' points of view.
 - Make a "friend book."
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STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING POSITIVE SOCIAL SKILLS



Educators help children to empathize with each other by:

- Talking about others' feelings and suggesting how they can show them to other children.
- Reading stories about feelings.
- Educators facilitate peer interactions by encouraging back and forth exchanges and pairing children for peer support during an activity.
- Modeling positive interactions and promoting respectful language.
- Educators teach children how to negotiate problems with sharing and cooperation by using problem solving kits and reading stories.

Coaching an Educator Supporting Children in Developing Positive Social Skills

Start with a few good questions:

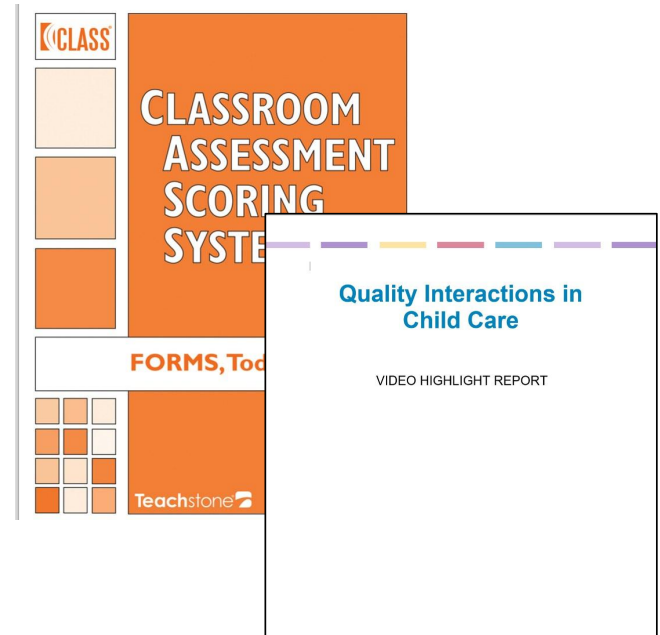
- How do you feel you're doing with supporting children to develop positive social skills?
- What do you do to teach children empathy?
- Are there specific children who are more challenging than others for you to help develop positive social skills?
- How do you support children in learning problem solving skills?
- How do you facilitate peer support during activities?
- What more do you want to know about this teaching practice?



What Data to Focus On for This Interaction

What to look at:

- “Interactions Between Children are Supported” data field in the QUIC tool.
- “Emotional and Behavior Support” and the “Instructional Support” sections of the CLASS tools.
- All areas that address individualizing for children.



Observing An Educator Supporting Children in Developing Positive Social Skills

- You can observe an educator’s practice by doing a focused observation during different times of the day and different activities.
- The focus or measurable component is noticing how and when the educator engages in practices that support children developing positive social skills.
- The exemplar videos illustrate an educator engaged in this teaching practice.



INSTRUCTIVE SESSION

- Some educators may not understand what it means to support children in developing positive social skills and need more specific information about what it looks like and how to do it.
- You can provide an instructive coaching session to help the educator gain a better understanding of the practice to be able to implement it with children.



WHAT TO INCLUDE ABOUT INFANTS

Share the strategies for supporting infants' development of positive social skills:

- Talk to your baby: Talking to your baby instead of simply talking to someone else in the same room helps them develop communication and language skills.
- Respond when they share things with you: Responding when your baby shares things with you is helpful.
- Model good social behavior: Show your baby how to take turns and see things from others' perspectives.
- Read books or tell stories to babies: Use a quiet voice.
- Play games: Play games like "my turn, your turn" with a ball or toy.
- Let them touch your face and copy your facial expressions.

WHAT TO INCLUDE ABOUT TODDLERS

Share the strategies for supporting toddlers' development of positive social skills:

- Help toddlers understand their feelings through play.
- Help toddlers express their feelings in age-appropriate ways.
- Encourage early friendships and offer play activities that don't involve sharing.
- Ask children to imagine how their behavior might affect others.
- Help toddlers to see others' points of view.
- Make a "friend book."

WHAT TO INCLUDE ABOUT PRESCHOOLERS

Share the strategies for supporting preschool children's development of positive social skills:

Teaching children how to empathize with each other by:

- Talking about others' feelings
- Suggesting how they can show it to other children
- Reading stories about feelings
- Facilitate peer interactions by encouraging back and forth exchanges and pairing children for peer support during an activity.
- Teach children how to negotiate problems with sharing and cooperation by using problem solving kits and reading stories.

AN INSTRUCTIVE SESSION CONCLUDED

Finally, you can show the informational video and the exemplar videos we shared with you in this assignment that illustrate and explain the practice.

After viewing the video, ask the coachee:

- What did you learn in the video about supporting children to develop positive social skills?
- How would you ensure that you're engaged in these practices with each child?
- What more do you need to know about these practices?

