JUNE 2021

SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Upper Canada District School Board

What is Social Emotional Learning?

CASEL'S SEL FRAMEWORK:
What Are the Core Competence Areas and Where Are They Promoted?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

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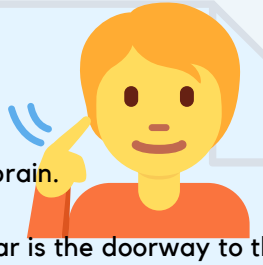
Learn more: www.casel.org/what-is-SEL

Social **E**motional **L**earning (**SEL**) ensures students gain the knowledge and skills needed to reach goals, interact successfully with others and make responsible and caring decisions. Click on the image to the left to find out more about SEL and how it supports success!

HEARING



Did you know: The ears are the doorways to the brain.

Hearing occurs in the brain, not in the ear. The ear is the doorway to the brain for sound/auditory information. The only purpose of technology, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants, is to get auditory information through the doorway, to the brain. (Carol Flexer - PhD, Audiologist, certified Auditory Verbal Therapist)

Canadian Hearing Services (CHS)

Canadian Hearing Services (CHS) is a great resource for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and their families. CHS offers a wide range of services such as: ASL interpreters, mental health counselling, hearing tests ($80), ASL courses, shop to purchase hearing technology to aid with everyday life, etc...

Please click the following link to explore the website: https://www.chs.ca/

DATES TO REMEMBER

June is National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month

June 5: World Environment Day

June 5: Health & Fitness Day

June 21: National Indigenous People's Day

June 25th: Last day of school

June 25th: Report cards go home

Sept. 1-3 PA Days

Sept. 7 First Day of School

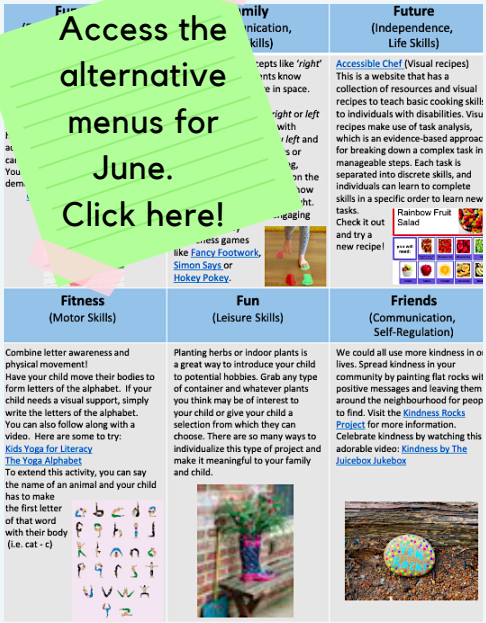
VISION

Did you know...
Children with visual impairments may be less able to interpret the social behaviours of others based on observation. They benefit from being explicitly taught about positive interpersonal relationships and accepted behavioural norms within a variety of settings such as home, school, work, and the community.

Social Interaction Skills include awareness of body language, social communication, cooperative skills, and social etiquette.

Here are various social interaction skill-building activities:

- Teach personal introductions (e.g., at the park, school, library)
- Encourage participation in a team sport or club
- Show how to respect personal space
- Model turn-taking during conversations as well as during playtime (model sharing too!)
- Coach how to use proper tone-of-voice and how to give & accept compliments
- Play facial expression games (Guess my emotion!)
- Have conversations about feelings and emotions (How might this make you feel?)
- Conversation starters – consider choosing one a day to discuss with your child (conversationstartersworld.com/250-conversation-starters)



Access the alternative menus for June. Click here!

Fitness (Motor Skills)	Fun (Leisure Skills)	Friends (Communication, Self-Regulation)
Combine letter awareness and physical movement! Have your child move their bodies to form letters of the alphabet. If your child needs a visual support, simply write the letters of the alphabet. You can also follow along with a video. Here are some to try: Kids Yoga for Literacy, The Yoga Alphabet. To extend this activity, you can say the name of an animal and your child has to make the first letter of that word with their body (i.e. cat - c)	Planting herbs or indoor plants is a great way to introduce your child to potential hobbies. Grab any type of container and whatever plants you think may be of interest to your child or give your child a selection from which they can choose. There are so many ways to individualize this type of project and make it meaningful to your family and child.	We could all use more kindness in our lives. Spread kindness in your community by painting flat rocks with positive messages and leaving them around the neighbourhood for people to find. Visit the Kindness Rocks Project for more information. Celebrate kindness by watching this adorable video: Kindness by The Juicebox Jukebox

Click on the monitor to access **SEL** activities for families!

From Our Speech Language Pathologists

10 Tips to Encourage Love of Literacy.

1. Have fun!!!
2. Let the reader choose the book even if they ask for the same one over and over again!
3. Create a reading routine that could include a beginning/ending song.
4. Create a preferred reading area.
5. Start with short easy exposures.
6. Leave books accessible at, below and above your child's reading level and see what they choose.
7. Plan literacy reinforcement by treating the student as a reader and writer.
8. Be dramatic and write funny notes and read funny books.
9. Write and read aloud to all ages of children.
10. Use high interest books for create your own.

For more detailed information and ideas please click on the following link.

Summer Trading Cards

Why buy trading cards when you can make them. Kids can take a deeper dive into reading and writing in a new way by creating their own cards about real or fictional people, places or objects, events or even abstract concepts using this tool from ReadWriteThink.

1

How to correctly model 44 sounds in the English language?

When teaching students to read, modeling the correct letter sound is critical.

Link to video here

2

What is phonological awareness and why is it important?

For the answer and lots of great ideas please reference this handout.

3

Right to Read

According to the Human Rights Commission **everyone has a right to read**. Learn more about this important initiative at this link.

Don't Forget ….

1. Reading material can come from sources other than books such as Pokemon cards or recipes. The trick is to engage your child.

2. We, as adults, don't always read at our reading level so it is important to follow your child's lead and allow them to select reading materials of interest.