



# Social Skills

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## What are social skills?

**Learned** behaviors that are socially acceptable, allowing people to communicate effectively & avoid inappropriate responses

## Why are social skills important?

- Positive teacher-child relationships is linked to development of positive social skills
- Positive peer relations = positive attachment to school
- Parent-teacher communication improves a child's social skills as it creates a two-way connection between two essential places in a child's life (home and school)
- Social skills impact school readiness in areas of physical development, learning approaches, cognition, language skills, and emotional development
- There is a close relationship between social skills and school performance


## How this relates to social emotional learning

- Teaches child to interact effectively
  - Works on empathy, listening & cooperation
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## Fostering Social Skills - Toddlers

- Model turn taking, sharing, manners, etc. as needed & talk about what you're doing differently
- Give praise when kids are helping you
- Play games or sing songs & emphasize copying sounds/body movements
- Read & Connect: Relate things in books to their experiences (ie: remember when we did... just like this girl in the book!")

## Fostering Social Skills - Infants

- Allow them to touch your face & copy facial expressions
  - Make eye contact often
  - Talk to baby as if they could talk back (natural pauses, facial expressions)
  - Respond to baby's reactions in calm, nurturing way
  - Connect words with feelings (ex: if baby laughs/smiles, talk about being happy)
  - Offer choices to older babies to increase confidence & decision making
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## References

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