

Special Issue

Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood Education

Message from the Guest Editor

Social and emotional development is key for the healthy development and wellbeing of children. Social and emotional development involves the acquisition of skills related to understanding feelings and intentions in self and others, and to learn to regulate behavior by managing strong emotions. Social and emotional development is also related to the ability to feel empathy and to develop prosocial behaviors. In addition, social and emotional development is important for the development of skills related to school readiness and later academic achievement. Creating epistemic trust is especially important in classrooms with children from diverse cultural backgrounds, children with challenging behavior, and children with learning difficulties. In short, social and emotional development is the key to self-regulation, social interaction, and learning. Finally, a child's positive relationship with trusting and caring adults is the key to successful social and emotional development. Thus, mentalizing, i.e., the ability to keep the child's mind in mind, is of vital importance for teachers, and can be enhanced in both children and teachers in the classroom.

Guest Editor

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