

Social-Emotional Development: **Communicating with Families about the Social-Emotional Development Foundations**

Strands:	<i>Self</i>	<i>Social Interaction</i>	<i>Relationships</i>
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GETTING READY

Instructional Component(s): In-Class Activity; Assessment

Strands: This activity can be used to develop familiarity with and deepen understanding of all strands or of individual strands.

Focus: Students explore communicating with family members about the social-emotional development foundations. They are given opportunities to view examples of family-friendly materials and create their own materials that empower families to be active partners in their child’s social-emotional development.

AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY

Students will demonstrate **knowledge** and **skills** that are consistent with an increased understanding and application of the concepts addressed in this activity.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of:

- The foundations for social-emotional development, including strands, substrands, foundations, and examples of foundations (*Standards 1 & 5*)*
- The ways context and culture, including experiences with our communities, language, and family, affect social-emotional development (*Standard 1*)*
- The importance of establishing positive relationships with families of children in programs (*Standard 2*)*
- How to communicate with families about their child’s development (*Standard 2*)*

Students will be able to:

- Discuss and describe elements of the foundations for social-emotional development, including strands, substrands, foundations, and examples (*Standards 1 & 5*)*
- Review program materials written for families for information about the program’s approach to and/or philosophy related to social-emotional development (*Standards 2 & 6*)*
- Communicate with families about their child’s social-emotional development (*Standard 2*)*
- Consider the influences of family, culture, and community on social-emotional development (*Standards 1 & 5*)*

*See Appendix A

Social-Emotional Development: **Communicating with Families about the Social-Emotional Development Foundations**

Before you start

This activity is designed for students who are working in a preschool program setting but works just as well if these students can be paired with a student who is not currently working with children.

Getting it started

Ask students who are working in a preschool program to pair with someone who is not, or, if many students are currently working in preschool programs, with someone else who is also doing so but perhaps at a different site. Have students share how they find out from the families whose children are in their care what is important to the families in terms of social emotional development. Some might have procedures for doing so, and some might not.

Keeping it going

Next, ask what is written in their program documents for families about the approach of the program to the social-emotional development of the children. Students could be asked to bring these materials to share with the other students.

Putting it together



Slides 2-3

After discussing some of these documents, have students develop a set of three to five questions that could be used to determine parents' beliefs and desires regarding their child's social-emotional development.

Ask students to write at least one question for each strand of the social-emotional development foundations. Ask students to do this in their small groups or pairs and provide a time to share these questions.

As they share their questions, ask students to consider the following:

- Are all substrands covered? Should they be?
- If not, can the group generate some questions to cover all substrands?
- Which substrands are most challenging to discuss with parents?

- How could cultural practices influence these questions and the responses that families might give?
- Are the questions framed in a culturally sensitive manner?

Remember to record the students' questions so that they can be distributed to your students as a resource list.

Assessment



Slides 4-5

Have students write three paragraphs that summarize the social-emotional development foundations—one for each strand—for parents or other family members.

Ask them to consider these questions in their writing:

- What are key points to make about the social-emotional development foundations?
- Why is social-emotional development important to discuss with families?
- How would you summarize for families the importance of social-emotional development in young children?
- What would you most want parents to know about the social-emotional development foundations?