Part 3: Providing Targeted Social Emotional Supports

Children need key social emotional skills as they enter school and develop throughout life:

- Confidence
- Capacity to develop good relationships with peers and adults
- Concentration and persistence on challenging tasks
- Ability to effectively communicate emotions
- Ability to be attentive and listen to instructions
- Ability to solve social problems

Step One: Teach and Encourage Friendship Skills

**Adults can promote social interaction among children by:**

- Creating opportunities for children to interact regularly
- Encouraging eye contact and engagement
- Modeling friendship skills and demonstrating the appropriate behavior
- Arranging materials and environment to promote social interaction

**Giving suggestions (organize play)**
- Sharing and taking turns (reciprocity)
- Being helpful (assists)
- Giving compliments
- Beginning to empathize

Step Two: Teach Problem-Solving

Children need assistance learning problem-solving skills such as:

- Thinking of alternative solutions
- Learning to evaluate solutions
- Learning that solutions have consequences
- Figuring out what to do when a solution doesn’t work

“What would you do if...”

**Support problem-solving in the moment by:**

- Anticipating problems
- Seeking proximity
- Supporting
- Encouraging
- Promoting

Step Three: Develop Social Emotional Literacy

Emotional literacy is the ability to identify, understand, and express emotions in a healthy way.

**CHILDREN NEED TO:**
- Recognize emotions in oneself and others
- Understand appropriate ways to express emotions
- Recognize and express feelings and use self-regulation

**ADULTS CAN TEACH BY:**
- Direct teaching (“use these words and emotions”)
- Indirect teaching (labeling)
- Adult modeling and acknowledgement
- Use of songs, books, pictures, and games

Strategies here provided by SW-PBIS and PW-PBIS frameworks. Start with the Heart represents an approach to implementing one of the critical pillars of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign: positive learning climate. To see how all four pillars help children on a path to reading proficiently by the end of third grade visit getgeorgiareading.org

Start with the Heart