

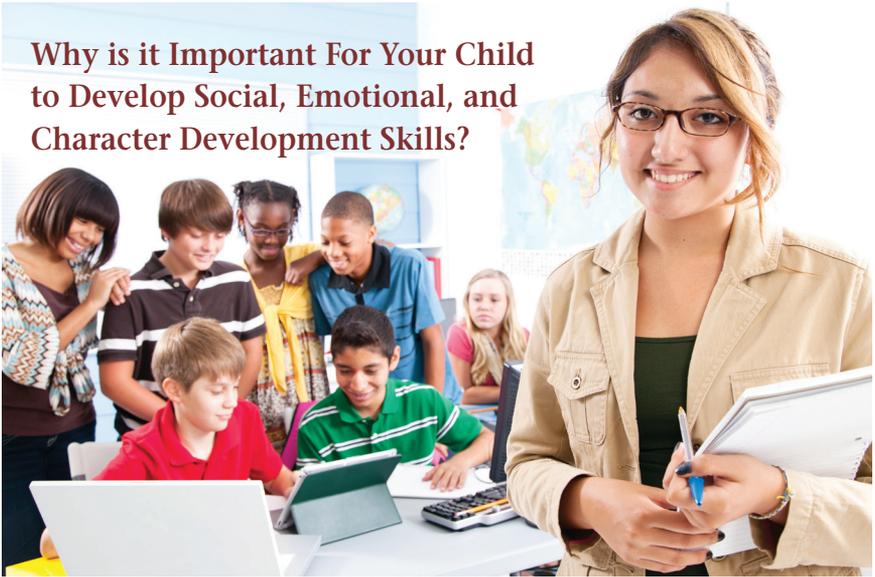


Social, Emotional & Character Development (SECD) Standards

What Families Need to Know

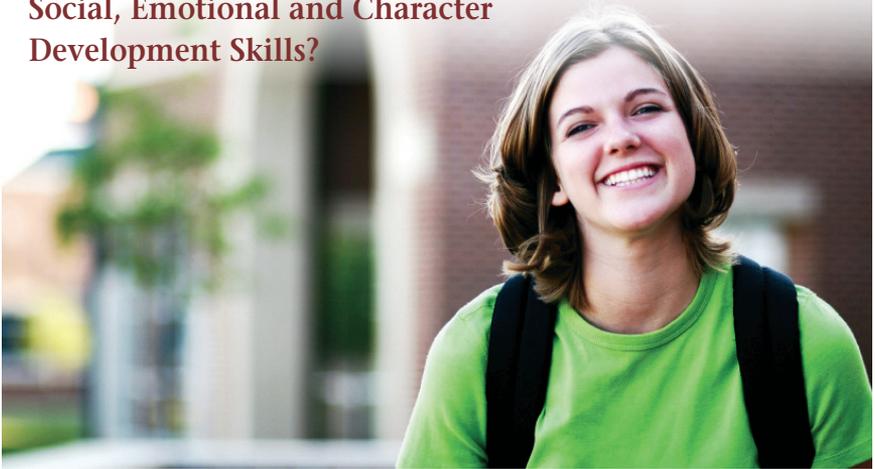
Social, Emotional and Character Development (SECD) Standards were endorsed by the Kansas State Board of Education in 2012 to provide schools with a framework for integrating social-emotional learning and character development into a child's education. The SECD Standards help students learn, practice and model essential personal life skills and habits that contribute to academic, vocational and personal success.

Why is it Important For Your Child to Develop Social, Emotional, and Character Development Skills?



In order for students to become college and career ready, students must identify and demonstrate well-developed social-emotional skills and identified individual and community core principles that assure academic, vocational and personal success. In a 2011 report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 8 out of 10 qualities employers seek in an employee are character qualities.

What Are the Effects of Learning Social, Emotional and Character Development Skills?



A portrait of a student who meets the standards may:

- Demonstrate character in his/her actions by treating others as they wish to be treated.
- Assume responsibility for his/her thoughts and actions.
- Demonstrate a growth mindset and continually develop cognitively, emotionally and socially.
- Exhibit the skills to work independently and collaboratively with efficiency and effectiveness.
- Strive for excellence by committing to hard work, persistence and internal motivation.
- Exhibit creativity and innovation, critical thinking and effective problem solving.
- Use resources, including technology and digital media, effectively, strategically, capably and appropriately.
- Demonstrate an understanding of other perspectives and cultures.
- Model the responsibility of citizenship and exhibit respect for human dignity.

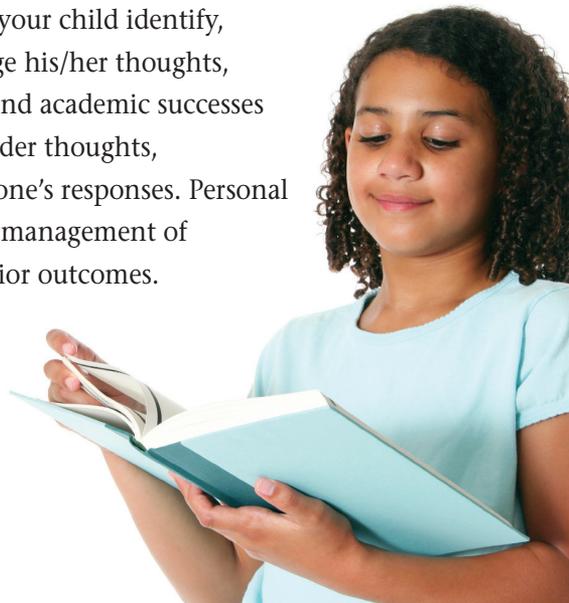
What is Social Development?



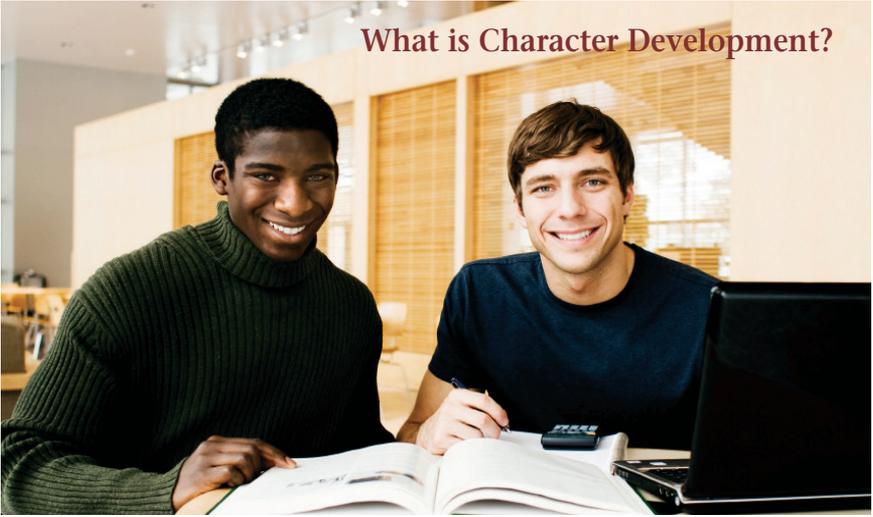
The development of social skills helps your child establish and maintain positive relationships and enables communication with others in various settings and situations. Building and maintaining positive relationships, and communicating well with others are central to success in school and life. Recognizing the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others leads to effective cooperation, communication and conflict resolution.

What is Personal Development?

Personal development skills help your child identify, understand and effectively manage his/her thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Personal and academic successes are built upon the ability to consider thoughts, understand feelings and manage one's responses. Personal thoughts and feelings impact the management of experiences and determine behavior outcomes.



What is Character Development?



Character development skills help your child identify, define and live in accordance with core principles that aid in effective problem solving and responsible decision making. Schools assist with preparing children to become good citizens and to participate in an interdependent world. Success in school and life is built upon the ability to make responsible decisions, solve problems effectively and to identify core principles.

Who Will Teach Social, Emotional, and Character Development Skills?

Social, emotional and character development begins at birth and continues into adulthood. When children enter school it is important that families and educators work together to build partnerships and establish complementary strategies to promote learning in school and at home. When any skill is taught (whether it be social, emotional or academic) the child is more likely to be successful when the skill is supported and reinforced both at home and at school. When families and educators collaborate they demonstrate and model the communication, behavior and relationship skills of social, emotional and character development.

What Are the Specific Skills My Child Will Learn?



The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL; www.CASEL.org) identified the following Essential Skills for Academic and Social Learning to be used by educators and parents as they work together to teach the SECD standards:

Children will be guided to:

Know Themselves and Others

- Identify feelings—recognizing and labeling one’s feelings
- Be responsible—understanding one’s obligation to engage in ethical, safe and legal behaviors
- Recognize strengths—identifying and cultivating one’s positive qualities

Make Responsible Decisions

- Manage emotions—regulating feelings so that they aid rather than impede the handling of situations
- Understand situations—accurately understanding one’s circumstances

- Set goals and plans—establishing and working toward achievement of specific short and long-term outcomes
- Solve problems creatively—engaging in a creative, disciplined process of exploring alternative possibilities that leads to responsible, goal-directed action, including overcoming obstacles to plans

Care for Others

- Show empathy—identifying and understanding the thoughts and feelings of others
- Respect others—believing that others deserve to be treated with kindness and compassion as part of our shared humanity
- Appreciate diversity—understanding that individual and group differences complement one another and add strength and adaptability to the world around us



Know How to Act

- Communicate effectively—using verbal and nonverbal skills to express oneself and promote effective exchanges with others
- Build relationships—establishing and maintaining healthy and rewarding connections with individuals and groups
- Negotiate fairly—achieving mutually satisfactory resolutions to conflict by addressing the needs of all concerned
- Refuse provocations—conveying and following through effectively with one’s decision not to engage in unwanted, unsafe or unethical behavior
- Seek help—identifying the need for and accessing appropriate assistance and support in pursuit of needs and goals
- Act ethically—guiding decisions and actions by a set of principles or standards



How Can I Help Develop My Child's Social, Emotional and Character Skills?



As parents, the behaviors you model will impact the way your child develops his/her social, emotional and character skills. Here are 10 things you can do at home while raising your child.

- Focus on your child's strengths and avoid criticizing things that are done wrong.
- Follow up with consequences for misbehavior that are fair.
- Ask your child how he/she feels.
- Find ways to stay calm when angry.
- Avoid humiliating or mocking your child and be mindful of how you speak to your child.
- Be willing to apologize when you have said something you did not mean.
- Give your child choices and respect his/her wishes.
- Ask questions that help your child solve problems on his/her own.
- Read books and stories together.
- Encourage sharing and helping.

In addition, help your child understand the vocabulary related to social, emotional and character development. Here are some words to think about:

Integrity • Initiative • Flexibility • Perseverance • Organization
Sense of Humor • Effort • Common Sense • Problem Solving • Respect
Responsibility • Patience • Curiosity • Cooperation • Caring
Courage • Pride • Dependable • Trustworthy • Motivation
Citizenship • Empathy

“Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”

— Henry Ford



Resources

Collaborative for Academic, Social,
and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

1 (312) 226-3770

www.casel.org

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)

1-866-711-6711

www.ksdetasn.org/kpirc

Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

1-800-203-9462

www.ksde.org

Technical Assistance Systems Network

<https://ksdetasn.org/smhi/social-and-emotional-learning-resources>



An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel,

900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, KS 66612; (785) 296-3201

