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The Impact of Social Emotional Learning in Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms

Kendall C. Jackson Belmont University, kcjack49@gmail.com

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The Impact of Social Emotional Learning in Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms

Kendall Jackson, OTD/S

Expert Mentor: Suzanne Satterfield, OTR/L, Faculty Mentor: Sue Iliff, PhD, OTR/L



Belmont University, School of Occupational Therapy

First Steps Inc.

- First Steps Inc. offers "inclusive childcare services for children six weeks to six years, outpatient pediatric therapy with occupational, speech, and physical therapy and early intervention services for children birth through three." Serving a wide range of special needs and medical conditions, First Steps Inc. reaches over 1,000 children each year.
- Mission: To educate and care for children with special needs and medical conditions alongside their typically developing peers in inclusive environments and support their families
- Vision: Enhance the quality of life for children and their families, eliminate barriers to services for children with special needs, empower families as they seek to meet the needs of their children, improve the community as a whole, child by child, family by family, and celebrate each child's unique potential

Agency Needs

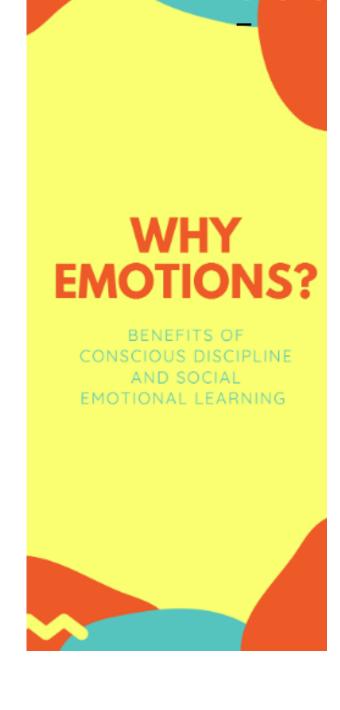
- Bridge the gap between the therapy team and the education team.
- Integrate social emotional learning (SEL) supports into everyday classroom use.
- Help children to identify and understand their emotions in order to improve self-regulation and social emotional learning.

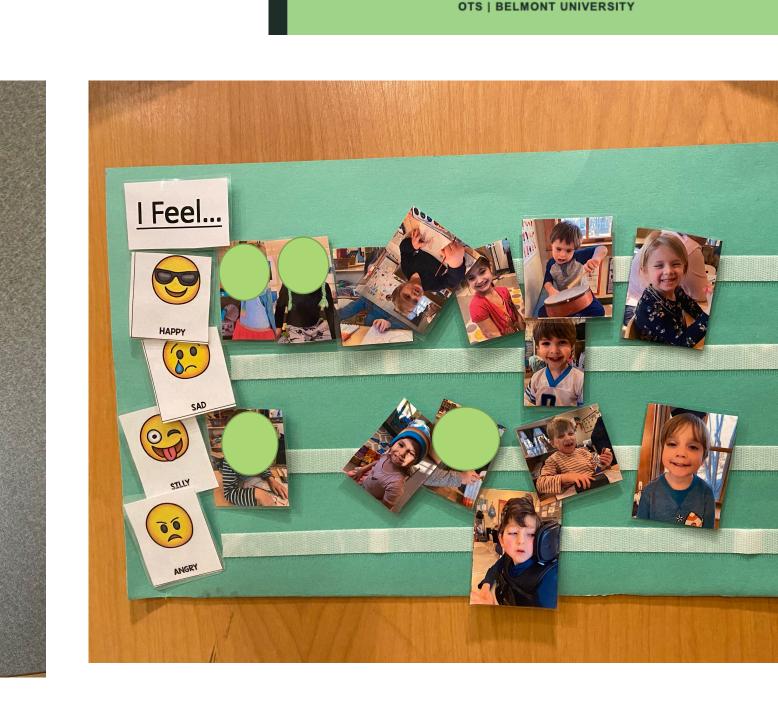
Project Goals

- Demonstrate innovation in emotional regulation interventions and professional reasoning by providing new strategies for children to better understand and express emotions.
- Develop a deeper understanding of social emotional learning and how it effects development and learning in children.
- Educate all staff on emotional regulation techniques, Conscious Discipline, SEL, and other supports to assist children with self-regulation.



How do you feel?





SEL

SUPPORTS

Project Outcomes

- Created multiple classroom supports and deliverables, such as a feelings check in board and emotions faces.
- Developed social emotional learning support manual for educators including social stories and emotion activities as well as instructions on how to use new classroom supports.
- Developed social emotional pamphlet for parents explaining the role that OT plays in SEL as well as the importance of SEL.
- Entry and exit surveys to determine confidence in teaching and understanding of social emotional learning. Surveys showed that teachers felt the new supports benefited the children and increased confidence in SEL.
- Increased knowledge of the effects of social emotional learning on lifelong development through observation, research, and hands on learning.

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