



5 Important Social Skills for Young Children

Cooperation - working smoothly with others (i.e. - allow others to go first, be flexible, wait for your turn, problem solve)

Assertiveness - confidently putting forth your ideas and opinions (i.e. - make eye contact, use a brave/kind voice, tell someone “that is not a good choice”, respond to a question asked)

Responsibility - taking charge of yourself, completing self-care tasks independently (i.e. - tying shoes, zipping coat, putting things in backpack), and working hard at your learning

Self-control - thinking before acting (i.e. - “Stop and Think”, think about consequences and how your actions make others feel, use your words rather than hands, “I feel ___ because ___.”)

Empathy - listening to others, understanding how others might respond to your words or actions, and thinking about how your words/actions make others feel (i.e. - look at facial expressions)

Ways children learn and practice these skills:

- √ Engaging in conversations and play with parents/caregivers
- √ Playing games
- √ Completing jobs or working together to accomplish a goal as a team
- √ Ordering own food in the cafeteria or at restaurant

- √ Managing sibling and peer conflicts with adult facilitation
- √ Problem solving
- √ Asking if someone who was injured is okay
- √ Answering questions/talking about highs and lows of the day
- √ Pre-teaching and role playing for new expectations and upcoming experiences
- √ Observing skills and expected behavior being modeled (children will do what they see and hear)