Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana Dipartimento formazione e apprendimento **Centro competenze innovazione e ricerca sui sistemi educativi** 

#### SUPSI

#### **Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl**

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Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education

2nd International Conference on Well-being in Education Systems

Locarno, 12-13-14 November 2019



Promoting the Well-being of Children Through Social and Emotional Learning: Recent Research and Implications for Education

Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl, Ph.D. Professor, Faculty of Education Director, Human Early Learning Partnership University of British Columbia 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Well-being in Educational Systems Locarno, Switzerland November 12-14, 2019





# **OVERVIEW**

1. Background on well-being, and a story. 2. Why now? The well-being of children. 3. What now? Defining social and emotional learning (SEL). 4. SEL: Some top recent scientific findings. 5. Practical strategies for promoting children's well-being and SEL.

Well-being is a keyword in the World Health **Organization (WHO)** definition of health: "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."



Ben-Arieh and Frones (2007) have offered the following definition, which is indicators-based:

"Child well-being encompasses quality of life in a broad sense. It refers to a child's economic conditions, peer relations, political rights, and opportunities for development."

## "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

- Aristotle



## Lesson Themes





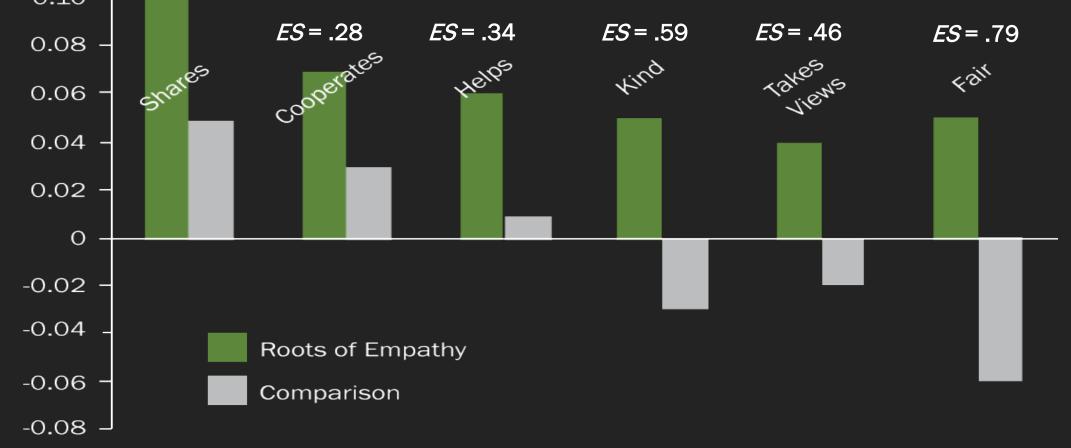
- Meeting the Baby
- Crying
- Caring and Planning for the Baby
- Emotions
- Sleep
- Safety
- Communication
- Who am I?
- Goodbye and Good Wishes

Fostering a *prosocial value orientation* thru engaging children collectively in activities that benefit others (e.g., Staub, 1988, 2003, 2005).

# A Baby and a Snugglie...

What does the research say about the effectiveness of the Roots of Empathy?

# Changes in Peer Assessments of Prosocialness



Schonert-Reichl, Smith, Zaidman-Zait, & Hertzman, 2012, School Mental Health

### **Key Messages**

# •Find something that you like about every child.

## •Lead with compassion.

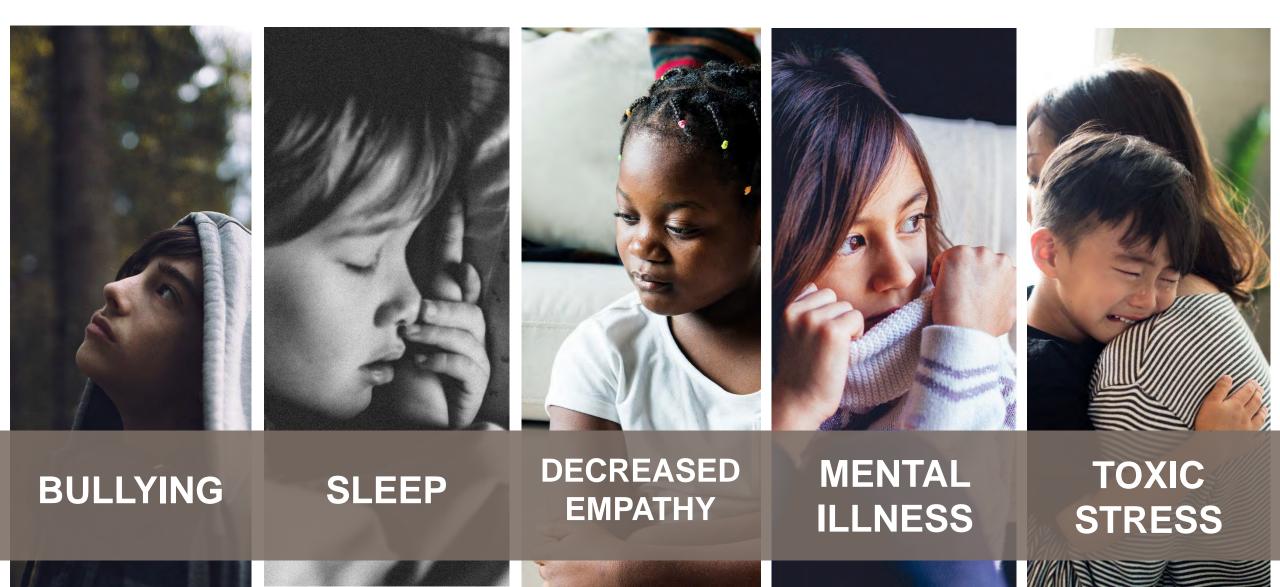
"Recognize that if educators are to effectively relate to students, they must be empathic, always attempting to perceive the world through the eyes of the student."

"Every child requires someone in his or her life who is absolutely crazy about them."

- Urie Bronfenbrenner

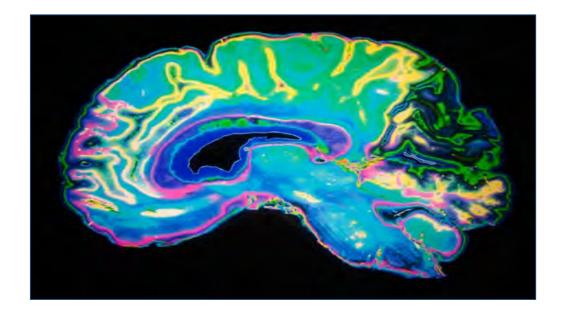


## **Changes and Challenges: Risk Factors**



## **Toxic Stress and Learning**

- •Chronic stress may impair the development of self-regulation
- •Over time may cause learning and behavior problems
- Especially for children at-risk
- Adult support may be protective

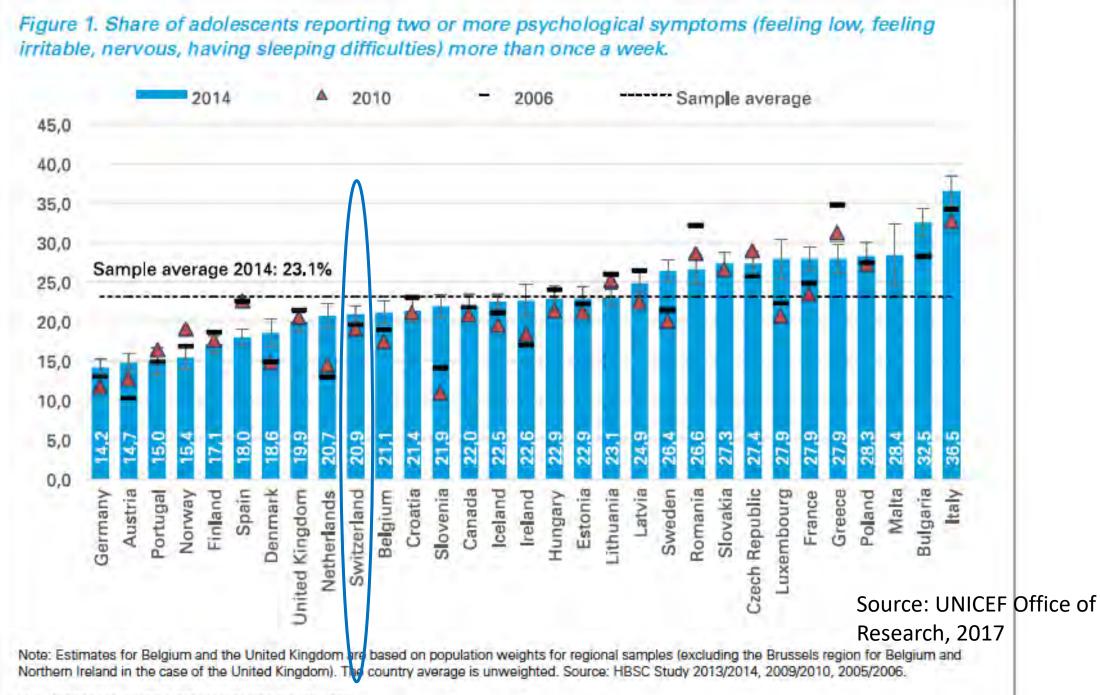


# STRESS CONTAGION

Oberle E., & Schonert-Reichl, K. A. (2016). Stress contagion in the classroom? The link between classroom teachers' burnout and morning cortisol in elementary school students. *Social Science & Medicine*, 159, 30-37. For the indicator "good health and wellbeing" of children, Switzerland ranks in the top third; **12th out of 41** high income countries. Most concerning, however, is that in **Responsible Consumption and Production**, Switzerland ranks as low as 31.

UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 14 (2017) Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries





95% confidence intervals are represented by error bars.

HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (HELP)

An Interdisciplinary Research Institute at the University of British Columbia

# **HELP's Vision:**

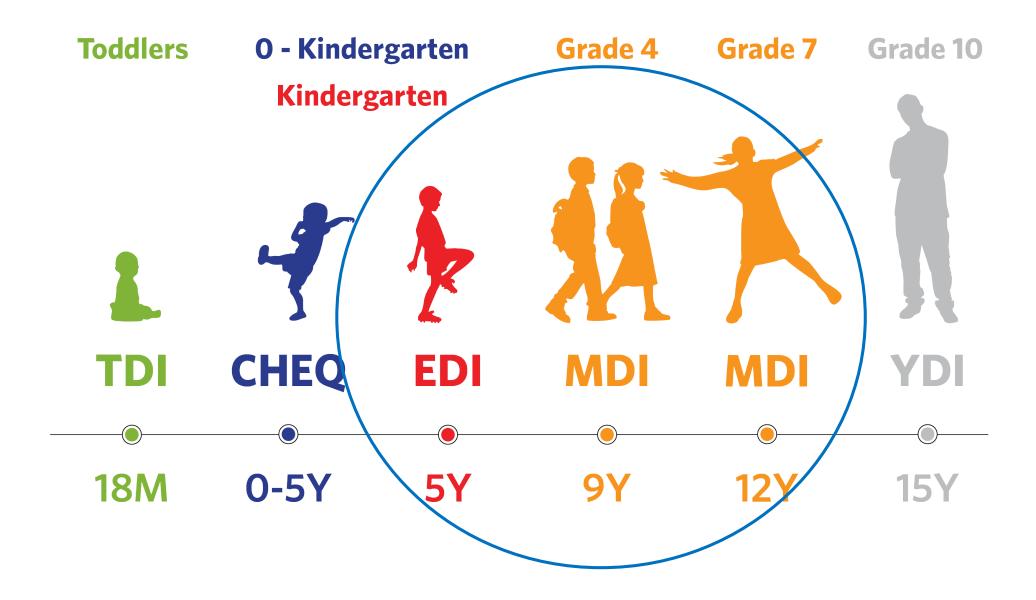




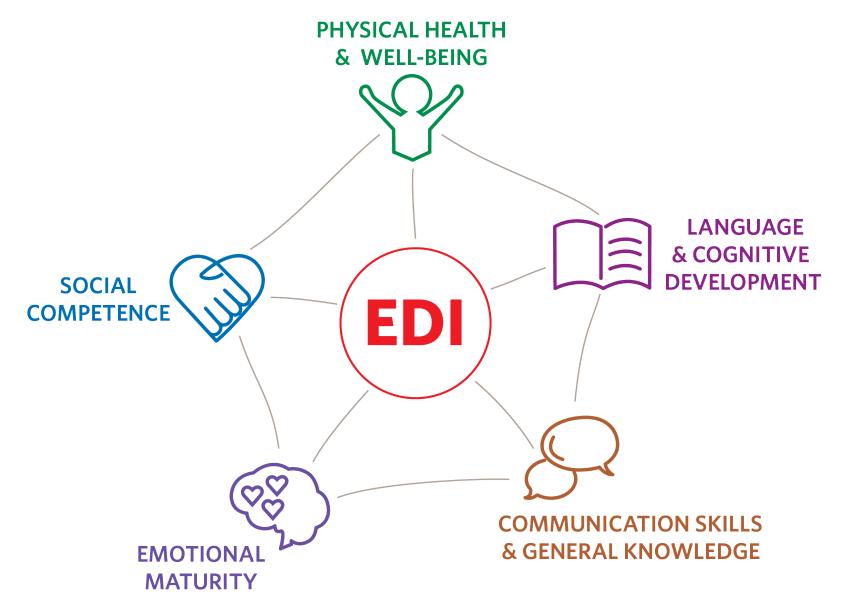
# All children thriving in healthy societies

## The social and emotional health and well-being of children in British Columbia, Canada

#### **HELP's CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM**



## **The Early Development Instrument**





#### Provincial Vulnerability Rate, All Scales, by Wave

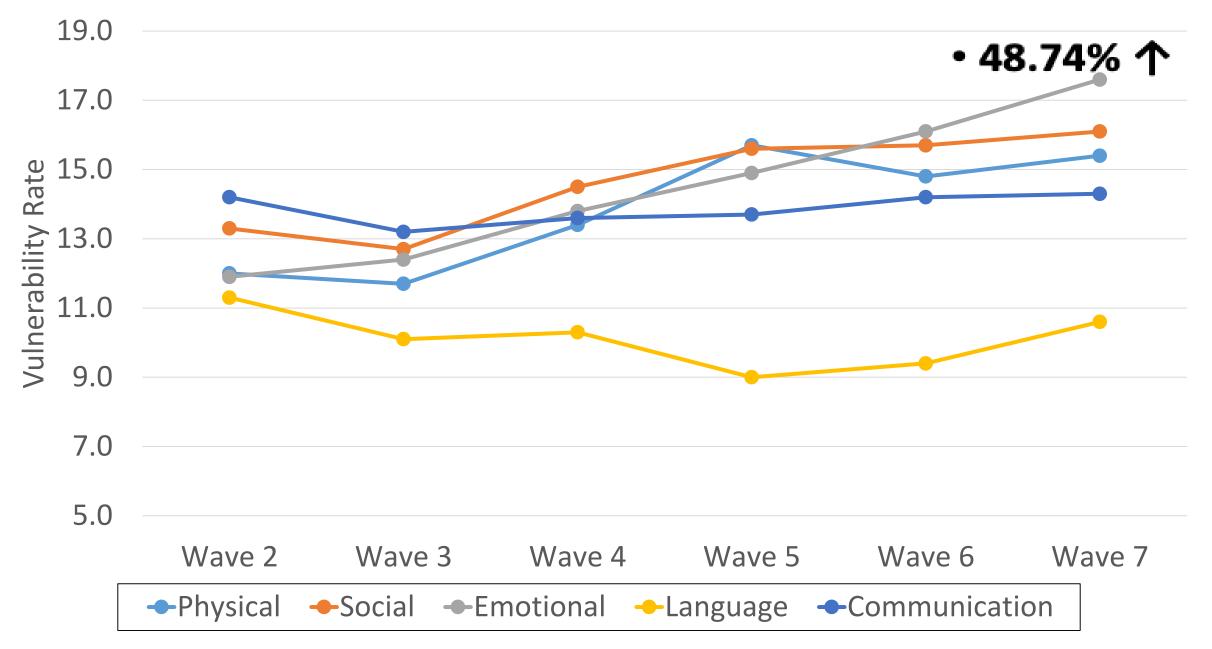


FIGURE 18. DISTRIBUTION OF VULNERABILITY ON ONE OR MORE SCALES OF THE EDI BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### 1 in 3 children are vulnerable on one or more scales

Note: the darker the shade of the district, the higher the vulnerability rate.

% VULNERABLE 100% 45% -40% -35% -30% -25% 60 -20% 82 -15% 0% No Data/ Suppressed

MDI

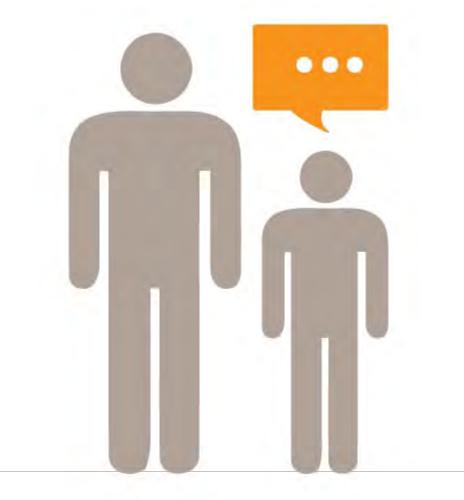
# The Middle-Year's Development Instrument (MDI)

Schonert-Reichl, K. A., Guhn, M., Gadermann, A. M., Hymel, S., Sweiss, L., & Hertzman, C. (2012). Development and validation of the Middle Years Development Instrument: Assessing children's well-being and assets across multiple contexts. *Social Indicators Research*, *114*, 345-369.

# **Self-Report Survey** for Children in Grades 4 & 7

Strengths-based assessment of children's health, well-being, success, and social and emotional development both inside and outside of school.

## **UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**



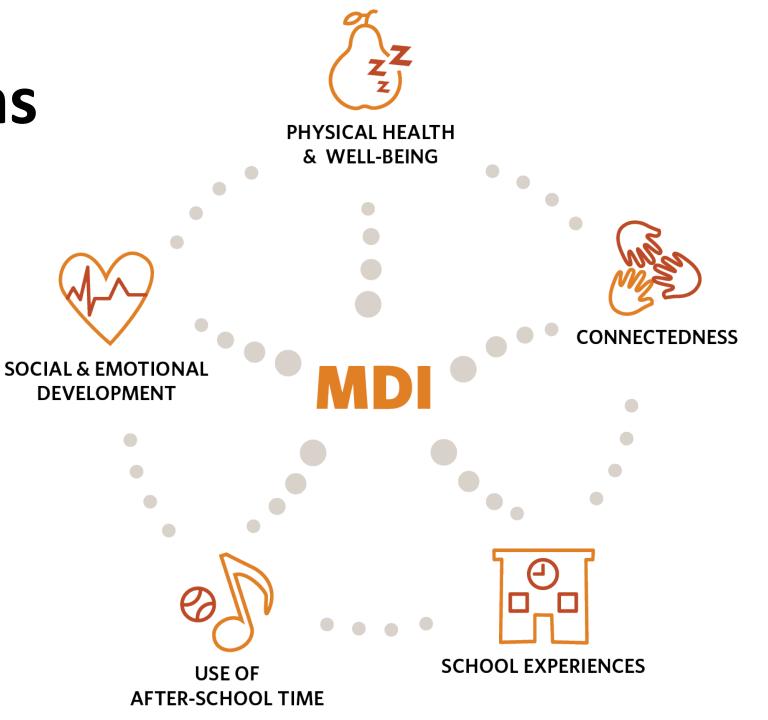
### Article 12: Children have a right to give their opinion and be listened to by the adults around them

# **Multiple Contexts:** School Family Neighbourhood **After-School Time**



## **MDI Dimensions**

Measures areas of development strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement



## The Well-Being Index

Optimism Self-Esteem Happiness Absence of Sadness General Health

#### Low Well-Being

Children who score in the Low range on at least 1 measure of Well-being

#### Medium to High Well-Being

Children who score in the High range on < 4 measures of well-being, and Low in 0 areas

#### High Well-Being (Thriving)

Children score in the high range on 4+ measures of well-being

## The Assets Index

#### ADULT RELATIONSHIPS

Adults at School Adults in the Neighbourhood Adults at Home



#### PEER RELATIONSHIPS

Peer Belonging Friendship Intimacy



#### NUTRITION AND SLEEP

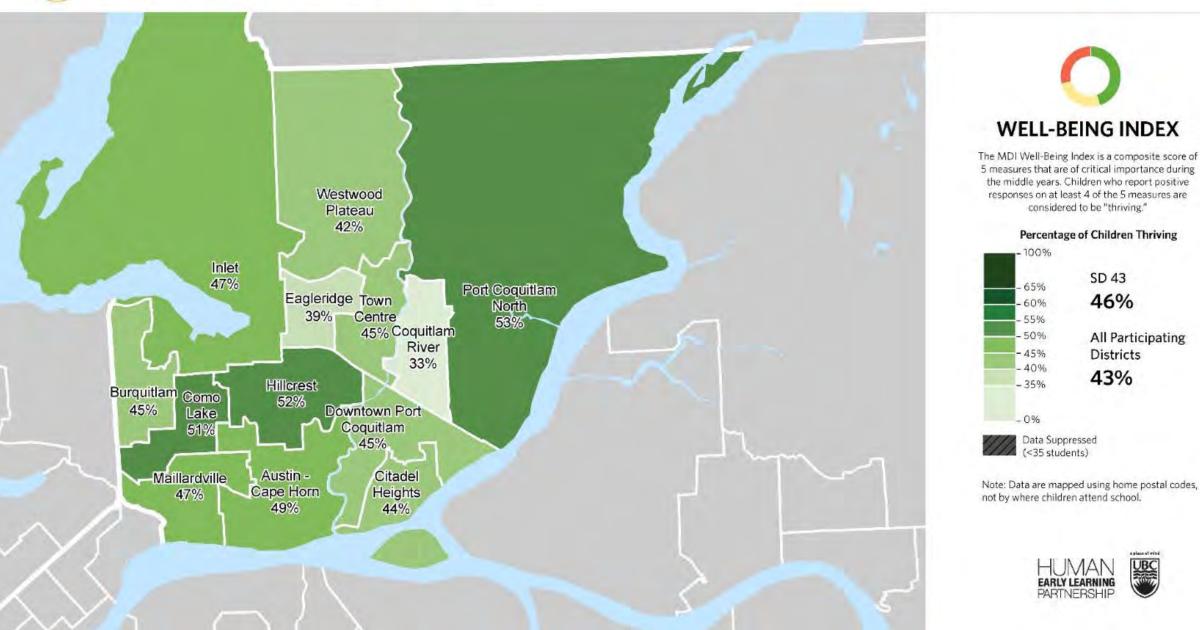
Eating Breakfast Meals with Adults at Home Frequency of Good Sleep



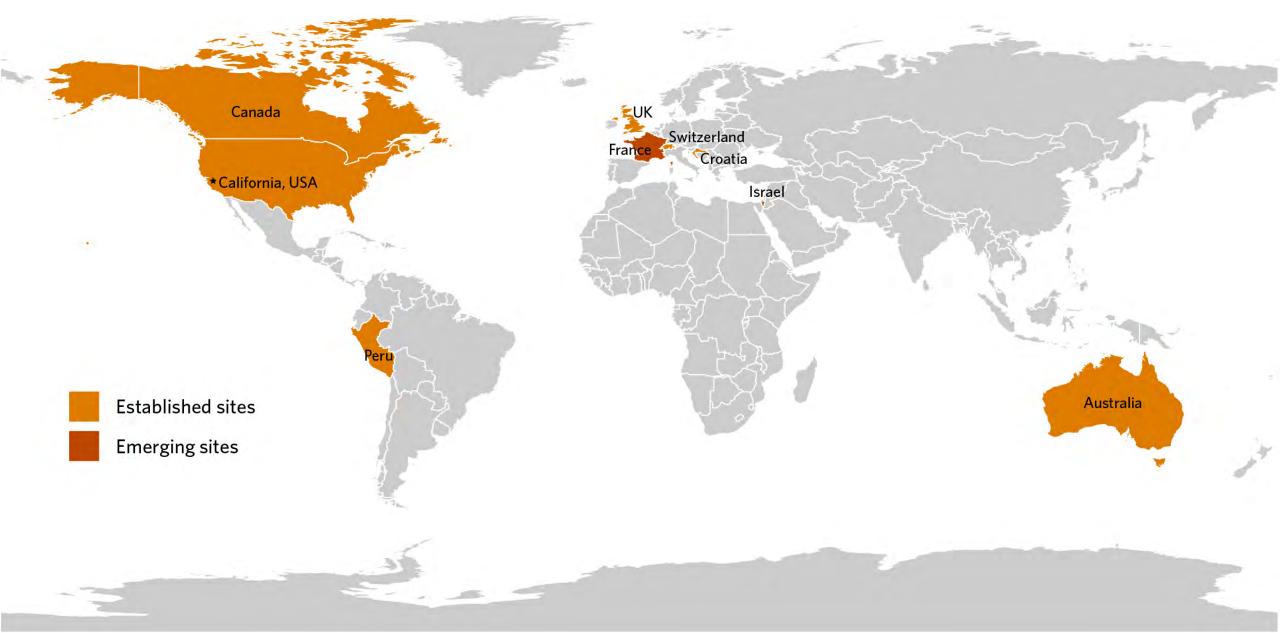
#### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**Organized Activities** 

#### MD COQUITLAM (SD 43) 2015/2016



#### **MDI International Sites**





#### Monitoring Preadolescents' Well-being: Italian Validation of the Middle Years Development Instrument

Luciana Castelli<sup>1</sup> · Jenny Marcionetti<sup>1</sup> · Alberto Crescentini<sup>1</sup> · Luca Sciaroni<sup>1</sup>

Accepted: 13 February 2017 / Published online: 22 February 2017 © Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2017

Abstract The aim of this study was to translate into Italian and validate the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). This population-level measure was developed and validated in English by Schonert-Reichl and colleagues *Social Indicators Research, 114*, 345–369, (2013) to measure well-being in preadolescents who were aged between six and twelve years. Our purpose was to test the MDI in the Swiss State of Canton Ticino, in which Italian is the official language. A total of 1942 6th and 7th grade preadolescents completed the questionnaire (50% girls). To assess the factor structure of the scales, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) were performed, which identified Social and emotional development,



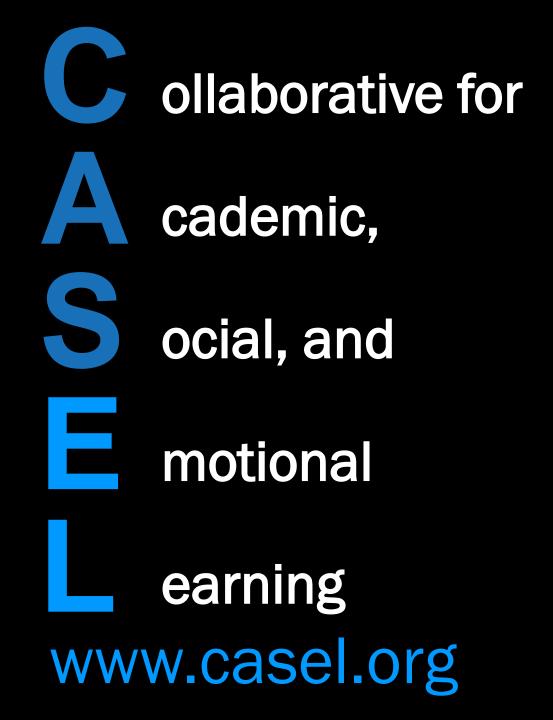
# Paradigm Shift: ILL-being to WELL-being



# **INTERVENTION** PREVENTION

Analytical intelligence (IQ) accounts for only 10% to 15% of job success and other real-world outcomes.

#### Daniel Goleman Author Intelligenza emotiva







## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL): A Growing Movement

## **Defining Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

- Social and emotional learning, or SEL, involves the processes through which individuals acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to
  - understand and manage their emotions,
  - feel and show empathy for others,
  - establish and achieve positive goals,
  - develop and maintain positive relationships, and
  - make responsible decisions



## Social & Emotional Fitness

# THREE ESSENTIAL

SEL OF STUDENTS

SEL OF EDUCATORS

THE LEARNING CONTEXT

## 

Compassion Empathy **Conflict Resolution** Gratitude Justice Integrity Motivation Mindfulness Self-awareness Self-regulation

POLICIES FOR BE

Well-Being 2030 Individual & Societal

# 30 Countries

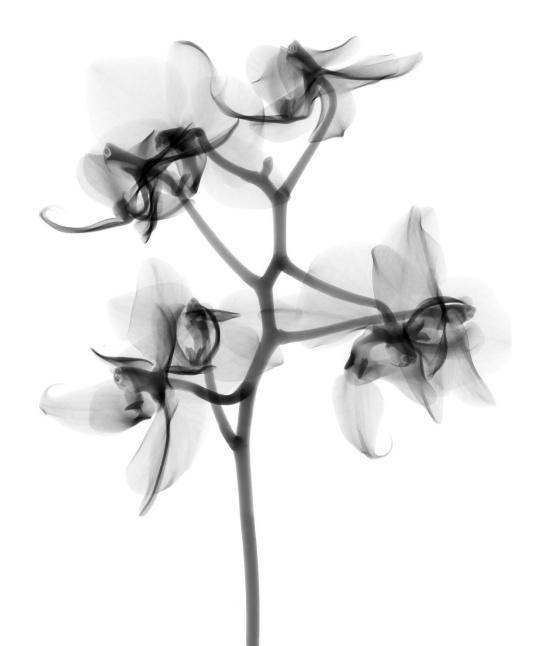
#### **COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD WITH SEL PROGRAMS**

#### 34 Countries

## BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA Redesigned K-12 Education Curriculum

**Core Competencies Thinking Competency Critical thinking Creative thinking Communication Competency Personal and Social Competency** Positive personal and cultural identity Personal awareness and responsibility Social responsibility

The Science Behind SEL: Top Findings from Recent Research



Finding #1: Social and emotional competencies in childhood predict positive outcomes in adulthood.

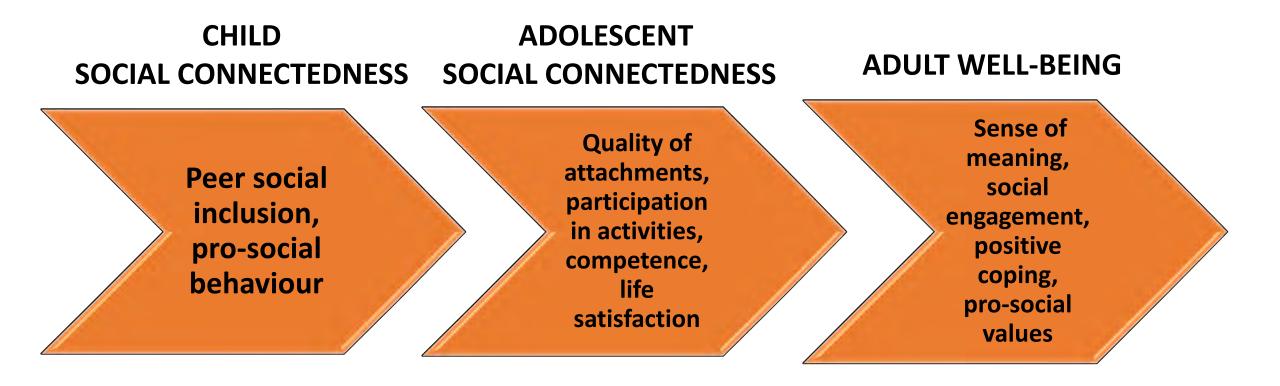


# "Children with strong social skills in kindergarten more likely to thrive as adults"

Jones, D. E., Greenberg, M., & Crowley, M. (2015). Early social-emotional functioning and public health: The relationship between kindergarten social competence and future wellness. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105, 2283-2290.

- Key Research Findings:
- Children with high prosocial skills in kindergarten were more likely to:
  - Graduate from high school
  - Complete a college degree
  - Obtain a full time job
- Children with low prosocial skills in kindergarten were more likely to:
  - Have spent time in juvenile detention
  - Been arrested by early adulthood
  - Have a higher rate of recent binge drinking and 82% higher rate of recent marijuana usage; and
  - Higher chance of being in or on a waiting list for public housing.

Child and Adolescent Pathways to Well-Being in Adulthood: A 32-Year Longitudinal Study



Olsson, C. A., McGee, R., Nada-Raja, S., & Williams, S. M. (2013). A 32-year longitudinal study of child and adolescent pathways to well-being in adulthood. *Journal of Happiness Studies, 14,* 1069-1083.



# Finding #2: Social & Emotional Skills are malleable



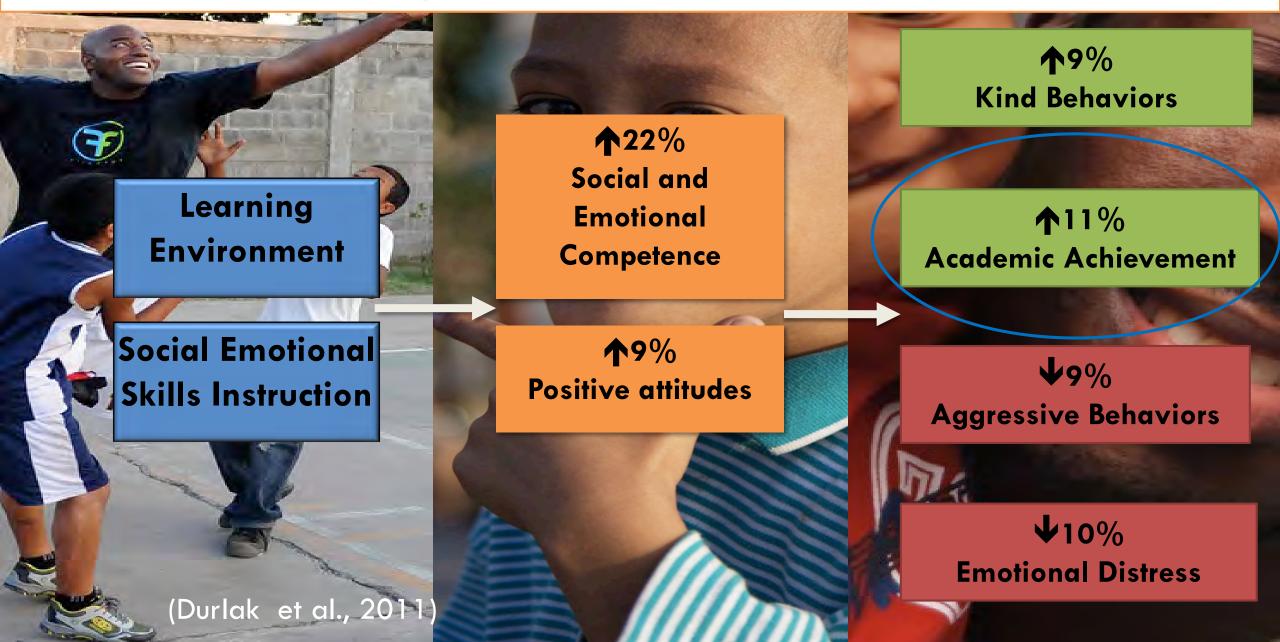
### NEUROPLASTICITY

(Goldsmith, Pollak, & Davidson, 2008; Kandel et al., 2000)



## Finding #3: SEL programming promotes prosociality, well-being, and school success

### CASEL Meta-analysis: 213 studies, 270,034 students



# Finding #4: SEL Skills are "Sticky" long lasting

Longitudinal Findings from the Seattle Social Development Project at Age 21 (Hawkins et al., 2008)

- More high school graduates
- More attending college
- More employed
- Better emotional and mental health
- Fewer with a criminal record
- Less drug selling
- Less co-morbid diagnosis of substance abuse and mental disorder

# Finding #5: We have underestimated children's capacities for being good





# It's not survival of the *fittest*; it's survival of the *kindest*.

#### **Dacher Keltner, Author**

#### "Born to Be Good"





#### Altruistic Helping in Human Infants and Young Chimpanzees Felix Warneken, *et al.*

Science 311, 1301 (2006); DOI: 10.1126/science.1121448

#### REPORTS

#### Altruistic Helping in Human Infants and Young Chimpanzees

Felix Warneken\* and Michael Tomasello

Human beings routinely help others to achieve their goals, even when the helper receives no immediate benefit and the person helped is a stranger. Such altruistic behaviors (toward non-kin) are extremely rare evolutionarily, with some theorists even proposing that they are uniquely human. Here we show that human children as young as 18 months of age (prelinguistic or just-linguistic) quite readily help others to achieve their goals in a variety of different situations. This requires both an understanding of others' goals and an altruistic motivation to help. In addition, we demonstrate similar though less robust skills and motivations in three young chimpanzees.

Helping is an extremely interesting phenomenon both cognitively and motivationally. Cognitively, to help someone solve a problem, one must know something about the goal the other is attempting to achieve as well as the current obstacles to that goal. Motivationally, exerting effort to help another person—with no immediate benefit to oneself—is costly, and such altruism (toward non-kin) is extremely rare evolutionarily. Indeed, some researchers have claimed that uations fell into four categories: out-of-reach objects, access thwarted by a physical obstacle, achieving a wrong (correctable) result, and using a wrong (correctable) means (Table 1) (movies S1 to S4). For each task, there was a corresponding control task in which the same basic situation was present but with no indication that this was a problem for the adult (14). This ensured that the infant's motivation was not just to reinstate the original situation or to have the adult repeat the action, but

each category (Fig. 1). They handed him several out-of-reach objects (but not if he had discarded them deliberately); they completed his stacking of books after his failed attempt (but not if his placement of the books appeared to meet his goal); they opened the door of a cabinet for him when his hands were full (but not if he struggled toward the top of the cabinet); and they retrieved an inaccessible object for him by opening a box using a means he was unaware of (but not if he had thrown the object inside the box on purpose). Analyzed by individual, 22 of the 24 infants helped in at least one of the tasks. It is noteworthy that they did so in almost all cases immediately (average latency = 5.2 s), before the adult either looked to them or verbalized his problem (84% of helping acts within the initial 10-s phase). Thus, the experimenter never verbally asked for help, and for the vast majority of helping acts, eye contact (as a subtle means of soliciting help) was also unnecessary.

Experimental studies on altruistic behaviors in nonhuman primates are scarce. There are anecdotal reports of possible instances of helping (15-17) and some experiments demonstrating empathic intervention by various









# WHAT NOT TO DO: Rewards for kind behaviour

#### **Extrinsic Rewards and Altruism**

Developmental Psychology 2008, Vol. 44, No. 6, 1785-1788 Copyright 2008 by the American Psychological Association 0012-1649/08/\$12.00 DOI: 10.1037/a0013860

#### Extrinsic Rewards Undermine Altruistic Tendencies in 20-Month-Olds

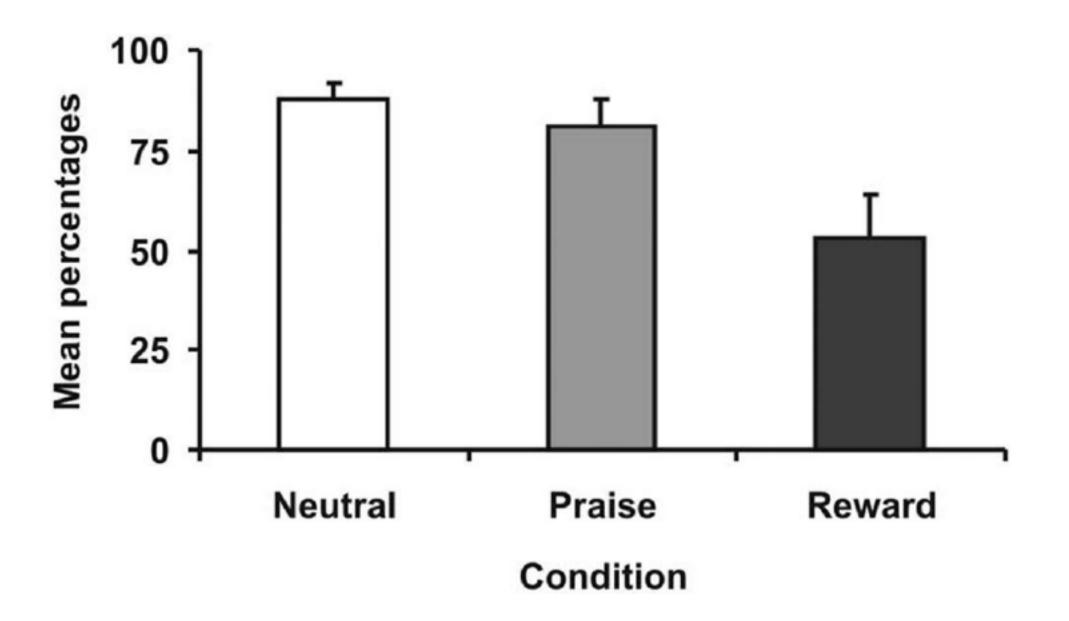
#### Felix Warneken and Michael Tomasello Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

The current study investigated the influence of rewards on very young children's helping behavior. After 20-month-old infants received a material reward during a treatment phase, they subsequently were less likely to engage in further helping during a test phase as compared with infants who had previously received social praise or no reward at all. This so-called *overjustification effect* suggests that even the earliest helping behaviors of young children are intrinsically motivated and that socialization practices involving extrinsic rewards can undermine this tendency.

Keywords: altruism, helping, intrinsic motivation, socialization, overjustification effect

Supplemental materials: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0013860.supp

Since at least the time of Rousseau and Locke, there has been debate about the nature of human altruism. Do people go out of their way to help others because they are inherently altruistic or because they are shaped by their social environments to be that behaviors only because they are externally rewarded for doing so (Bar-Tal, 1982; Cialdini, Baumann, & Kenrick, 1981; Dovidio, Piliavin, Schroeder, & Penner, 2006). Rather, these findings suggest that very early in development humans might have an intrinsic





# Finding #6: SEL promotes happiness, group cohesion, reduces aggression, and promotes health

## Happiness!

### **PROMOTING HAPPINESS**

EXAMPLES: Writing letters of gratitude Practicing mindfulness Performing acts of kindness



Can random assignment to volunteering reduce cardiovascular risk in teens?

#### ARTICLE

### ONLINE FIRST Effect of Volunteering on Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Adolescents

#### A Randomized Controlled Trial

Hannah M. C. Schreier, PhD; Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl, PhD; Edith Chen, PhD

**Importance:** The idea that individuals who help others incur health benefits themselves suggests a novel approach to improving health while simultaneously promoting greater civic orientation in our society. The present study is the first experimental trial, to our knowledge, of whether regular volunteering can reduce cardiovascular risk factors in adolescents.

**Objective:** To test a novel intervention that assigned adolescents to volunteer with elementary school–aged children as a means of improving adolescents' cardiovascular risk profiles.

**Design:** Randomized controlled trial, with measurements taken at baseline and 4 months later (postintervention).

**Results:** No statistically significant group differences were found at baseline. Postintervention, adolescents in the intervention group showed significantly lower interleukin 6 levels (log<sub>10</sub> mean difference, 0.13; 95% CI, 0.004 to 0.251), cholesterol levels (log<sub>10</sub> mean difference, 0.03; 95% CI, 0.003 to 0.059), and body mass index (mean difference, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.07 to 0.71) compared with adolescents in the control group. Effects for C-reactive protein level were marginal (log<sub>10</sub> mean difference, 0.13; 95% CI, -0.011 to 0.275). Preliminary analyses within the intervention group suggest that those who increased the most in empathy and altruistic behaviors, and who decreased the most in negative mood, also showed the greatest decreases in cardiovascular risk over time.

# Finding #71 Io reach the students, CARE For Educators

# Teaching is one of the most stressful of all professions!

46% of teachers report high daily stress during the school year.\* That's tied with nurses for the highest rate among all occupational groups.

\*Gallup. (2014). State of America's Schools: A Path to Winning Again in Education. (Washington, DC: Gallup).



### First...



Then...



What do you know about the degree to which teacher candidates learn about social and emotional learning in their teacher education programs?

**VERY LITTLE!!** 

## What Enhances the SEL and Wellbeing of Children and Youth? Evidence-Based Practical Strategies



### #1. SEL 2.0: Implementing SEL System-Wide





### A Systemic Approach to SEL

- 1. Create caring and supportive school environments and positive relationships with students so that they feel cared for, supported, and nurtured.
- 2. Provide students with opportunities and specific skills that will foster their social and emotional competence, happiness, and well-being.
- 3. Promote the social and emotional competence and wellbeing of the adults.



How it Works Schoolwide SEL Process ✓

#### Track Progress F

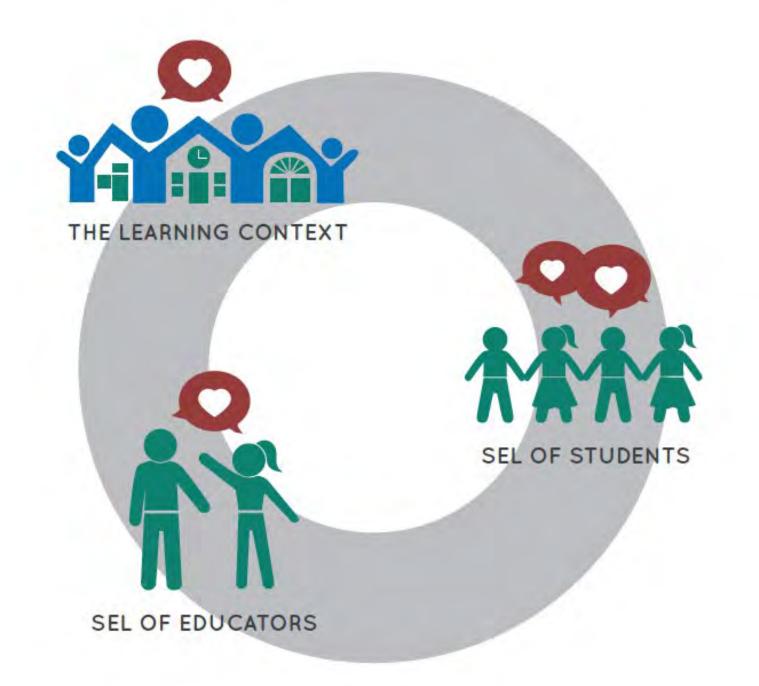
Resources

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Login



### THREE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF Systemic SEL





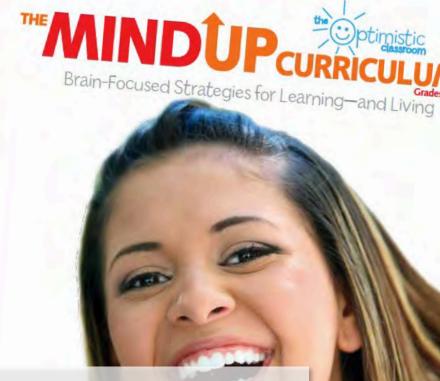


### #2: IMPLEMENT EVIDENCE-BASED SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) PROGRAMS





Focused Classrooms • Mindful Learning • Resilient Children



## Kindergarten to 8th grade (5 to 14 yrs)

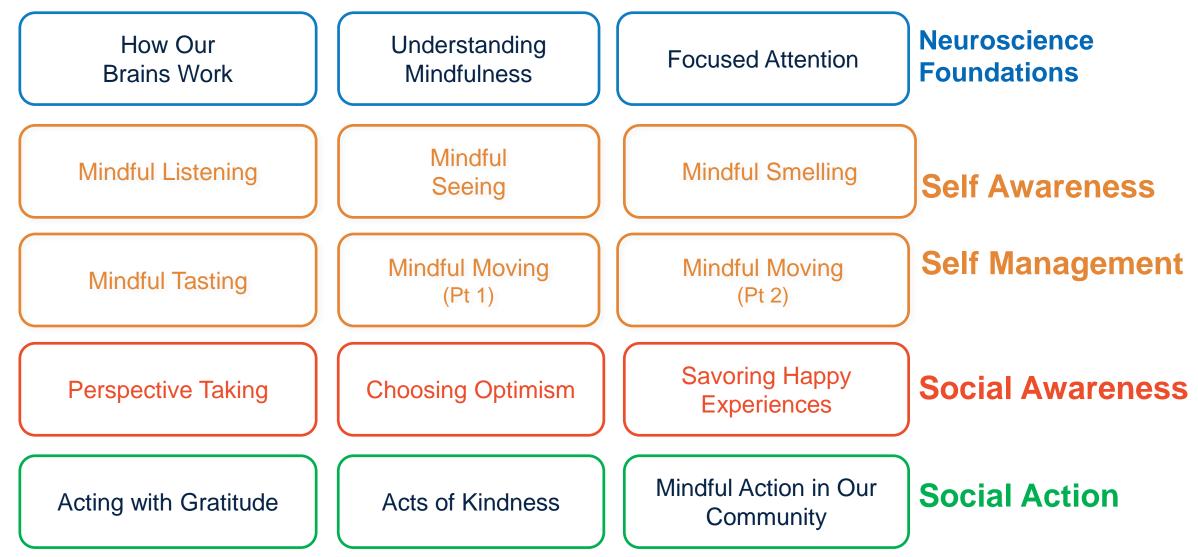
ocused Classrooms • Mindful Learning • Resilient Students

Focused Classrooms • Mindful Learning • Resilient Students

MSCHOLASTIC







### Practicing Mindful Attention Awareness "Brain Breaks"

LISTEN

### BREATHE

PAUSE

## **Summary of Findings on MindUP**

- Self-control
- Positive emotions
- Empathy and perspective-taking
- Social and emotional competence
- Stress regulation
- Kindness and caring for others
- A Math grades
- Depressive symptoms

Schonert-Reichl, K. A., Oberle, E., Lawlor, M. S., Abbott, D., Thomson, K., Oberlander, T., & Diamond, A. (2015). Enhancing cognitive and social-emotional development through a simple-to-administer mindfulness-based school program for elementary school children: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Developmental Psychology*, *51*, 52-66.

# Social, Emotional, and Ethical Learning

An Initiative for Educating Heart and Mind



**The Framework: Three Domains & Three Dimensions** 

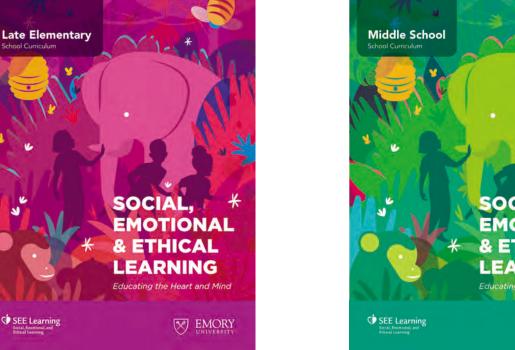


A comprehensive framework and curriculum to teach awareness and compassion to children in educational settings across the globe.



### The SEE Learning Curriculum





SOCIAL

Each level contains about 40 Learning Experiences, each of which takes between 20-40 minutes to complete. Free Lessons: https://seelearning.emory.edu/

### SEE Learning-Italia Email: <u>seelearning.italia@gmail.com</u>



SEL OF EDUCATORS

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## #3: Promote the well-being of adults in school!



- Cultivating
- Awareness
- Resilience in
- Education

### http://www.CARE4Teachers.com





GARRISON INSTITUTE



### THE LEARNING CONTEXT



### **#4: DEVELOP AN EMPATHIC MINDSET**

# Brief intervention to encourage empathic discipline cuts suspension rates in half among adolescents

Jason A. Okonofua<sup>a,1</sup>, David Paunesku<sup>a</sup>, and Gregory M. Walton<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

PNAS

Edited by Susan T. Fiske, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved March 18, 2016 (received for review December 1, 2015)

Growing suspension rates predict major negative life outcomes, including adult incarceration and unemployment. Experiment 1 tested whether teachers (n = 39) could be encouraged to adopt an empathic rather than punitive mindset about discipline-to value students' perspectives and sustain positive relationships while encouraging better behavior. Experiment 2 tested whether an empathic response to misbehavior would sustain students' (n = 302)respect for teachers and motivation to behave well in class. These hypotheses were confirmed. Finally, a randomized field experiment tested a brief, online intervention to encourage teachers to adopt an empathic mindset about discipline. Evaluated at five middle schools in three districts ( $N_{\text{teachers}} = 31$ ;  $N_{\text{students}} = 1,682$ ), this intervention halved year-long student suspension rates from 9.6% to 4.8%. It also bolstered respect the most at-risk students, previously suspended students, perceived from teachers. Teachers' mindsets about discipline directly affect the quality of teacherstudent relationships and student suspensions and, moreover, can be changed through scalable intervention.

may give rise to a self-perpetuating cycle of punishment and misbehavior (12).

Three experiments tested whether teachers can be encouraged to adopt an empathic mindset about discipline and examined its impact on students. This mindset prioritizes valuing and understanding students' experiences and negative feelings that give rise to misbehavior, sustaining positive relationships with misbehaving students, and working with students within trusting relationships to improve behavior (9). For example, perspective-taking, the cognitive component of empathy, may help teachers understand students' experiences and internal states (13) and thus respond more appropriately to misbehavior (e.g., with greater concern for the needs of the student) (12, 14). Notably, even as many teachers are exposed to a default punitive approach to discipline (5), teachers also have, as a central plank of their profession, the goal to build and sustain positive relationships with students, especially struggling students (15). The existence of this alternative mindset suggests that it may be possible through relatively modest means to encourage a different approach to student misbehavior. We

### **Connectedness to Adults**

 Connectedness to adults at school more strongly predicted well-being (optimism, happiness, selfconcept) than connectedness to adults at home or in the neighborhood and community.

• Connectedness to adults was a stronger predictor of well-being than socio-economic status. (Oberle, Schonert-Reichl, Guhn, Zumbo, & Hertzman, 2014, *Canadian Journal of School Psychology*.)



## **#5: SPEND TIME OUTDOORS**

### "What is not assessed, is not addressed"

### #6: Collect Data on Students' SEL and Well-being

## And, remember to measure the light and not just the shadows

#7: Listening to Children's Voices

### Many ways to teach SEL



### In the fall of 2006 a group of grade eight middle school students did something amazing

**Moving Forward** 1. What are two actions that you are going to take to promote your own well being? 2. What are two actions that you are going to take to promote your students' SE



### THANK YOU!

# Practical resources for promoting social and emotional learning in students

Dalai Lama Center – "Heart-Mind online"

http://www.heartmindonline.org/

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

www.casel.org

Edutopia

http://www.edutopia.org

SEL School (Great Teachers and Leaders)

http://www.gtlcenter.org/sel-school

Social and Emotional Learning Resource Finder (UBC)

http://www.selresources.com/sel-resources/

**Greater Good Science Center** 

http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/