# Social-Emotional Teaching Strategies

## Strategy 1: Relationships and Social Interactions with Peers

**Competency:** Child interacts competently and cooperatively with other children and develops friendships with several peers (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 8)

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<tr>
<th>Exploring Competencies</th>
<th>Building Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Embed in context</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask a child who has grabbed a toy from another to &quot;use his words&quot; to let a classmate know what he wants, offering simple words to help articulate their feelings, such as &quot;My turn, please.&quot;</td>
<td>Read a story about a child whose best friend has moved away, and ask children to share ideas of things they could do to comfort the child. While reading, point to the child's face in the story or use a picture card to show how the child is feeling &quot;sad,&quot; and encourage your students to draw pictures and/or write words that reflect their feelings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Model</strong></td>
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<td>Tell a child gently and respectfully that you would like him to put his hands in his lap rather than on the child next to him. To support language understanding, model behavior and encourage the student to mimic your behavior, by saying, &quot;I will put my hands on my lap.&quot;</td>
<td>Show an interest in your students' lives outside of school, for example having a conversation about what they did over the weekend.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Give opportunities for practice</strong></td>
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<td>Have your students take turns during sharing time. Support language understanding by scaffolding turn-taking and saying, for example, &quot;Now it's Nico's turn. Now it's Ciara's turn.&quot;</td>
<td>Give your students games, such as Chutes and Ladders, that require cooperation.</td>
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## Strategy 2: Social and Emotional Understanding

**Competency:** Child shows developing understanding of people's behavior, feelings, thoughts and individual characteristics (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 9)

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<td><strong>Embed in context</strong></td>
<td>Ask children to discuss the emotions a child in a story is experiencing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Model</strong></td>
<td>Comfort a child.</td>
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<td><strong>Give opportunities for practice</strong></td>
<td>Lead a game asking children to label emotions in pictures. Use a familiar song to teach feeling words by replacing words with new emotional vocabulary paired with understandable movements and gestures.</td>
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**Strategy 3: Conflict Negotiation**

**Competency:** Child shows increasing understanding of the needs of other children and is increasingly able to consider alternatives and to negotiate constructively (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 10)

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<td>Offer a strategy for sharing. Example: &quot;If you divide the cars up, you would each have three, and could play with them together on the train track.&quot;</td>
<td>Imagine that two children are arguing over paints.</td>
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<td>Articulate that you are &quot;waiting quietly for everyone to get ready to hear a story&quot; while also using a gesture that is familiar to children.</td>
<td>Refrain from solving the problem for the children and instead engage them in a conversation that helps them solve it. Try asking, &quot;What strategies could you use to decide how you share the paints?&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Model</strong></td>
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<td>Example: As you get ready to read a book at circle time, a child interrupts and asks for a different book.</td>
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Ask the class to vote and select the book with the most votes.

| Give opportunities for practice | During "free choice" time, the children have an opportunity for dramatic play to negotiate roles, take turns, share materials and initiate activities. | Ask children to create rules for the playground while writing them down and encouraging the children to negotiate differences in opinions. |

**Strategy 4: Self-Control of Feelings and Behavior**

**Competency:** Child increasingly develops strategies for regulating feelings and behavior based on adult guidance (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 12)

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<td>Help a visibly upset child identify the cause of his distress and hold him to make him feel secure until he is calm. Gently touch the hand of a child who appears anxious or reticent about class activities to reassure him or her.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Model</strong></td>
<td>Articulate a strategy you use to regulate your behavior. Example: &quot;I'm going to hold my hands together to help me remember not to touch any of the paints until it's time.&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Give opportunities for practice</strong></td>
<td>In circle time, ask children how they are feeling that day and support new emotional vocabulary by incorporating pictures, labels and gestures. Give children opportunities to respond with words or gestures. Respond by combining the emotion word and gesture while acknowledging child's feelings.</td>
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example, if a child says that he feels lonely, acknowledge the child's feelings by asking, "What can you do to help you to feel better?"

**Strategy 5: Engagement and Persistence**

**Competency:** Child persists in understanding and mastering a self-selected activity, even if it is challenging or difficult (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 13)

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<td>Ask a child to articulate his goal in an activity and the first step.</td>
<td>Ask children to articulate their plan and the steps they will take for an art project. Example: &quot;What will you do first? What colors will you use?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Model</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Model completing an activity for children, explaining each of the steps you took.</td>
<td>When giving instructions for an activity, demonstrate stringing beads and make an error in your pattern. Point out the mistake and correct it.</td>
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<td>Give children activities that require at least two steps (e.g., coloring a picture and writing the first letter of their name).</td>
<td>Give projects that have several steps to completion and require planning, correction and completion. For example, puzzles, playing a game, an art project and building structures.</td>
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**Strategy 6: Responsible Conduct**

**Competency:** Child develops skill in acting as a responsible group member and behaving in a fair and socially acceptable manner, regulating behavior according to classroom rules (corresponds with DRDP-SR Measure 14)

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<td>Congratulate the students who listened to your instructions attentively.</td>
<td>Scenario: The children are noisy coming in from the playground. Ask the children to brainstorm strategies to remember to keep their voices quiet when they...</td>
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come in from outdoor play.

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<th>Model</th>
<th>Speak in a soft voice.</th>
<th>Ensure that every child has a chance to talk.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Give opportunities for practice</td>
<td>Children take turns distributing snacks each day.</td>
<td>There are a pad of paper and pencil in each area with a popular activity; encourage children to create sign-up lists for turn taking.</td>
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**Strategy 7: Integrated Approaches for English Language Development and Family Engagement**

**Integrated Approach: English Language Development**
Focus on simple strategies that support children’s expressive and receptive language skills. By doing so, you can promote social-emotional competence in a way that directly influences their learning and development. Plan for activities where children express their feelings and introduce sentence starters or “linguistic frames” (e.g. “Today, I feel..., I do not like…, I need…”) to support children who are learning to communicate in English.

**Collaborative Approach: Family Engagement**
It is important to build strong relationships with families to ensure that the whole family has a positive experience in the school. When a child feels a connection between his home and school, he is bound to feel more connected and safe in both places. Develop partnerships with families and the community, organize family events and develop communication strategies that support a strong dialog around the value of home language and culture in their child’s success in school and in life.

*Resource: TKcalifornia.org*