

Classroom Insights From Educational Psychology

A Developmental Approach to Educating Young Children



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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *A Developmental Approach to Educating Young Children*.

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A.9 PROMOTING HEALTHY PEER RELATIONS

(See Chapter 3, Child-Child Relationships in School)

Observe the following teacher behaviors associated with promotion of healthy peer relationships in a classroom. Provide an example of each of the practices.

Rate the extent to which these practices are demonstrated from a teacher's view, using a 1 to 5 scale (1 = not at all, 5 = frequently). (Practicing teachers can rate their own practices.)

Which behavior or practice could be improved? How?

	I attend to my own interactions with children as a model for my students.
	I ensure that all children are included in small group activities and prompt children when needed.
	I take advantage of everyday social conflicts to discuss and resolve together in class meetings.
	I strive to implement child-centered, developmentally appropriate practices in my classroom.
	I allow some free time in class and at recess for children to interact with minimal adult control (adults observe and monitor from a distance).

	I encourage friendships in the classroom and allow friends to work together on academic tasks at times.
	I initiate structured games on the playground (provide materials and guidance, then let children go).
	I watch out for bullying behavior.
	I implement a social skills curriculum shown to be effective.