Social Emotional Literacy: Learning is a Connection Project

Learning Forward Conference
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“Un”ique Portraits
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www.TheLearningAlliance.org
Vero Beach, FL
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Building Community

That’s Me!
Learning Goals

● EXPLORE the impact social emotional literacy has on students’ ability to learn.
● DISCOVER and experience rituals and routines that build connections with and among students.
● UNDERSTAND how connection drives learning.
Moonshot Moment
Framing Question

What does it take to achieve 90% literacy by third grade such that we grow literate, compassionate, creative citizens who will improve the world?
We unite parents, educators, and community leaders around the child who is the star at the center.
Enriched Literacy Framework
Social Emotional Literacy

the ability to manage emotions and navigate group interactions to build a community of learners

➢ Embedded throughout
➢ Oops, it’s cool!
Framing Question

*How do we create the conditions in which students are safe and available to learn?*
LOOKING LIKE ME

BY WALTER DEAN MYERS

ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTOPHER MYERS
Essential Question

Who am I in my community?
Mindful Moonshot Morning Routine

One serves oneself best when one is serving others.

The key is to be part of a community.

- Martin Sheen
Activity to Unite

*Everyone does the same thing at the same time with the same purpose*

Pump Up the Jam

- When the music plays, dance around the room.
- High five or fist bump while making eye contact

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Activity to Disengage Stress

Breathing

Mirrors
Activity to Connect

Ways to connect with partners:
Eye Contact ~ Presence ~ Touch ~ Playful Situation

- Buddy Up: Find a buddy with different color eyes than your own
- Share: Tell the story behind your name
Activity to Commit

**Group Commitment:**
Be Bold, Be Open, Be Present

**Individual Commitment:**
Set a goal for yourself for day
Structure first

**Routines** create predictability

*(Jobs = safety, Morning Mtg, Reflection, procedures)*

Relationships second

**Rituals** create connections

*(Greetings, Building Community, connection activities)*
Activity to Unite

Activity to Disengage Stress

Activity to Connect

Activity to Commit

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Activity to Unite
We value our humanity.

The goal of this activity to unite is to bring the scattered energy into a more congruent and cohesive whole.

- Dr. Becky Bailey

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Activity to Disengage Stress

We value safety.

It is absolutely essential to begin the day with stress reducing activities and take frequent brain breaks throughout the day in order to combat the stress we all face as teachers and students.

- Dr. Becky Bailey

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Activity to Connect
We value each other.

Connections are built by...

Eye contact
Touch
Presence
Playful situation

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Activity to Commit
We value and respect each other.

Personal Commitment:
I am going to ____________________________

Oops--------- I did it----------

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The Benefits of A Mindful Morning Routine

- reduced stress
- Increased focus
- self regulation
- Impulse control
- positivity
- sense of belonging
- Integrated mind, body, and brain
- empathy
- higher order thinking skills
Learning is a Connection Project

A Moonshot Talk with Liz Remington
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Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
No significant learning can occur without significant relationships. Connection is the key. 

- Dr. Becky Bailey
Connections on the outside build connections on the inside.
3 PARTS OF YOUR BRAIN

Executive State
Prefrontal Lobes
What can I learn from this?

Emotional State
Limbic System
Am I loved?

Survival State
Brain Stem
Am I safe?

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It is literally neurobiologically impossible to build memories, engage in complex thoughts, or make meaningful decisions without emotions.

Emotions are not add ons but dimensions of the academic skill itself. We only think about things we care about.

We feel therefore we learn.

- Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, Brain and Creativity Institute
Emotion is the on/off switch to learning
When the switch is OFF - Stress & Survival

- No access to memory, reasoning and connection
- Frustration, anxiety, despair, worry, and shame set in
When the switch is ON - The door to learning, memory and student engagement is open.

- Social Connection
- Drive to help others - empathy
- Drive to acquire knowledge
- Problem solving
- Instructional optimism and persistence
- Self Discipline, Self regulation, Self Efficacy
UBUNTU: My humanity is inextricably bound to yours
Reflection: I/Q

Insights/Questions
Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning.

Play is really the work of childhood.

– Fred Rogers
Play with Text: Instant Sculptures
Instant Sculptures
I looked in the mirror and what did I see? A real handsome dude looking just like me.

I’m a writer, spinning dramas that dance across the stage

I’m walking tall and I’m walking proud

I’m a city child. I love the dizzy heights, the concrete, the steel, the bright neon lights.

I dream of secret places

I just love to race with the spinning earth beneath me, the wind blowing in my face
Thinking Routines
See - Think - Wonder
a thinking routine

What do you see?
What do you think about that?
What does it make you wonder?
SOMETIMES I LET MY WORDS GO FREE, LIKE MARBLES OFF A SHELF.

SOMETIMES I GIVE MYSELF A BAM AND KEEP THEM TO MYSELF.
Write a sentence that captures the core idea of the text.

Write a phrase that moved, engaged or provoked you.

Write a word that grabbed your attention or was powerful.
Sentence - Phrase - Word
a thinking routine

Turn & Talk at your table.
Share what you chose and why.
Word Whip

Select a word, phrase, or sentence to share around the circle.
The Cordel from Brazil
LOOKING LIKE ME

BY WALTER DEAN MYERS

ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTOPHER MYERS
From 0-8 there is rapid and complex development of:

- Communication
- Perspective Taking
- Social Skills
- Emotional Skills
- Motor Skills
THE ARTS AS A PRODUCT OF PLAY

- Music Activities
- Storytelling
- Drama & Theatre
- Visual Art
- Being Read Stories
WHY DO THE ARTS WORK ON SEL?

Lasting happiness, interest and pride

Acquisition of Self-Regulation skills

Manage and express emotions
Literature, the Arts, and Design Challenges

Academic empathy growing experiences that foster connections and community
Reflection: I/Q

Insights/Questions
Activity to Commit
We value and respect each other.

Personal Commitment:
I am going to____________________________

Oops-------- I did it--------

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Take our 3 minute survey!

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Session ID: 2443

NOTE: Session ID should be in all CAPS and is case-sensitive.

Your responses power our report.
Thank you!!

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