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## Supporting Children’s Development of a Core Social-Emotional Skill

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### INSTRUCTIONS

The ECE Resource Hub is organized around key social-emotional skills called Core Skills. Core Skills examples include Building Teacher-Child Relationships, Supporting Children’s Strong Emotions. For each Core Skill, you will find the following Foundational Resources:

- ◆ Core Skill Summary Sheets (found by selecting “Learn More About It”)
- ◆ Three “What it Looks Like” exemplar clips
- ◆ Book Reading activity
- ◆ Activity Cards

This handout was designed to guide your use of the Foundational Resources for each Core Skill on the ECE Resource Hub. The questions and activities in this handout could be used in a work session (e.g., professional learning community, professional development session), for individual coaching, or for self-reflection.

### Goals

Use the Foundational Resources on the ECE Resource Hub to:

- ◆ Explore how one Core Skill develops.
- ◆ Learn the intentional teaching practices that best support the development of this Core Skill, including viewing exemplar classroom videos.
- ◆ Plan for observing and supporting children’s development of this Core Skill.

### Activity

- ◆ Prior to the session, review the Core Skill Summary Sheet and the “What it Looks Like” exemplar clips for the Core Skill you are focusing on.
- ◆ Use the questions below to guide your reflection on how you are already supporting this skill, how children are displaying this skill, and new practices you’d like to explore.
- ◆ Review the Activity Card and Book Reading Foundational Resources.
- ◆ Make and implement a plan for supporting children’s development of such skill.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What caught your attention on the Core Skill Summary Sheet or What It Looks Like video clips?
  - What made that idea, fact, example or practice meaningful to you?
- ◆ How is the information in this sheet and videos the same or different from the way you've thought about or supported this skill in the past?

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- ◆ When a teacher knows where children are in their development of a skill, they can provide effective, targeted support.
    - Go through your roster. Think about each child and make notes on how they show the Core Skill you are focused on and what support they may need. What do you think may be “just a bit more” than what they can do independently?
    - Review the “Observe” description on the back of the Core Skill Summary Sheet. This week, observe and spend time with each child with a close eye on their behaviors related to this skill. Did your observations match your initial notes? What did you notice about who may need extra support or challenge?
    - Our observations are clouded by our own biases. Take a moment to consider how your biases may be unintentionally affecting your observations. Did you notice any patterns around how you view children of a certain race/ethnicity or gender? Do you expect more or less from certain groups of children?

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- ◆ Plan to use the practices, activities, and routines in the Foundational Resources to support children's development of the Core Skill. For example:
    - **Practice a practice!** In the back of the Core Skill Summary Sheet, you will find three intentional teaching practices, one for each day of the week. The intentional teaching practices are essential techniques to support the Core Skill. Choose one intentional teaching practice to try out and reflect on how it goes. Consider ways to remind yourself to use it for this week and beyond.
    - **Make it routine.** Review the “Setting the Stage” section on the first page of the Core Skill Summary Sheet. “Setting the Stage” includes activities, materials, and routines to support the development of the Core Skill. Choose a routine you will incorporate in your classroom or a change you will make to the environment. Try it out this week—set a time to reflect on how the children are reacting and ways to adapt if necessary.
    - **Build it with books.** To learn how to support this specific Core Skill using storybooks, check out the Book Reading activity on the Core Skill webpage. Plan for using this activity in your classroom. How might you need to adapt this activity for your children? What other books do you know that would also be great for supporting this Core Skill?
    - **Weave it across the day.** To learn how to support this specific Core Skill throughout the day, explore the Activity Cards on the Core Skill webpage. Plan for how you can add these simple, fun ways to support this Core Skill across your day.