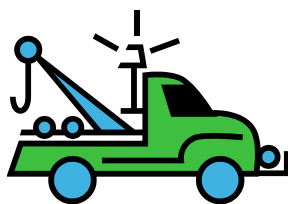


Why is Social Emotional Competence in Early Childhood so Important?



- The prevalence of problematic behaviors in young children is about 10 percent. Children in poverty have prevalence rates close to 27 percent (Raver & Knitzer, 2002).
- In preschool children, 4 to 6 percent have serious emotional and behavioral disorders, and 16 to 30 percent pose on-going problems to classroom teachers (Raver & Knitzer, 2002).

- Over 32 percent of all young children are affected by one risk factor (low income, low maternal education, or single-parent status) and 16 percent are in families with two or more socio-demographic risks (Raver & Knitzer, 2002).
- The correlation between preschool-age aggression and aggression at age 10 is higher than that for IQ (Kazdin, 1995).
- Early appearing aggressive behaviors are the best predictor of juvenile gang membership and violence (Reid, 1993).
- Young children who show signs of anti-social or aggressive behavior are more likely to do poorly on academic tasks and to be held back in the early years (Raver & Knitzer, 2002).
- Children who are identified as hard to manage at ages 3 and 4 have a high probability (50:50) of continuing to have difficulties into adolescence (Campbell & Ewing, 1990; Campbell, 1997; Egeland et al., 1990).
- Preschool expulsion rates are 3 times higher than K-12 expulsion rates (Gilliam, 2005).



- Boys are 4.5 times more likely than girls to be expelled.
 - African American children are twice as likely to be expelled than white or Latino children and 5 times more likely than Asian American children.
 - Expulsion rates for 5 year olds are double rates for 4 year olds.
- In WI, over two-thirds of child care providers reported that they had expelled a child from their care at some point in their career (Irvin-Vitella, 2010)
 - 52% asked a family to leave within the past two years.
 - Child and family behavior were among the leading causes of expulsion in both group and family child care settings.
 - 1 in 5 providers reported that they had little or no confidence in their ability to deal with challenging behaviors.

