

Peaceworks for Little Kids

Program Overview

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Program name

Peaceworks for Little Kids

Country of Origin

United States

Implementation level of the program

Regional, Organization

Type of Program

Evidence-based intervention

Description

A socio-emotional program for early childhood aimed at promoting social skills and reducing behavioral problems in pre-schoolers. The program belongs to the Peace Education Foundation (PEF). The Peace Education Foundation's teaching methodology is based on the premise that the teacher is the key to our program's success. It includes the following five strategies:

model peacemaking skills

teach

coach

encourage

delegate and export.

Format:

The program applied to young children can have two aspects.

Creating Caring Children (0-3 years): dedicated to parents and educators of young children, providing stimulating and appropriate responses to meet the child's needs through conscious and caring language. This curriculum addresses the importance of the first years of life, promoting good development and success at school and for life.

Peacemaking Skills For Little Kids (3-5 years): dedicated to parents and educators to promote socio-emotional development, build character and values (respect, responsibility and cooperation) and prepare for school.

The program can be implemented in preschool classrooms, Strong Start and kindergarten. This defines a collaborative school community that is able to implement the features of Peace Works to establish a shared vision for socio-emotional learning and a common language between educators and students.

Methods and materials:

The material consists of fun activities, games, music and puzzles that teach students the I-Care Rules and important practical skills, such as listening, cooperating, sharing and the Peace Table process.

The I-Care-Cat is a puppet character that helps to teach children each new concept. The Peace Works feature includes:

An I-Care-Cat puppet;

A music CD;

An I-Care-Cat poster of the I-Care rules.

The I-Care Rules are:

We listen to each other;

Hands are for helping, not hurting;

We use I-Care language;

We care about each other's feelings;

We are responsible for what we say and do.

Age Range

0-3 years, 3-7 years

Age Range Information

Teachers and parents of pre-schoolers (0-5 years).

SEL Skills Targeted

Relationship skills, Social awareness, Self-awareness, Self-management

Sequenced Activities

Skills targeted are:

Socioemotional development

Rabies control

Promoting cooperation

Self-regulation

Prosocial behavior

Expressive language skills

Empathy

Conflict prevention

Training courses for pre-school teachers and parents are taught by professional PEF instructors with extensive experience in teaching and implementing programs.

Each lesson contains:

Italicized words indicating teacher talk;

An audio icon signalling it is the I-Care cats turn to talk;

A peace point (learning intention);

An introduction, core lesson or discussion, and closing remarks;

A list of required lesson materials;

Art, music, and literacy integration.

Active Learning

It is important to start with a welcoming environment where children feel safe to take risks and develop conflict resolution skills. In addition, the educator plays a key role in establishing a good classroom environment, reflecting on the choice of language, tone of voice and body language. The effective implementation of Works for Peace means that the teacher should ideally continuously model the lessons of the program.

Outcomes / Results

The pattern of positive results about the program is positive: the negative and problematic compositions of preschoolers have decreased; pre-school students showed greater self-control, followed the rules and took turns, exhibited more independence in games and schoolwork and more positive dissipation with teachers and colleagues; lower rates of withdrawal, anxiety and internalization levels. In this way, children are more ready for school, in terms of regulation and socio-emotional development.

Strengths and Weaknesses

A positive aspect of the program is that it takes into account the different cultural patterns, races or ethnicities.

Additional Information

<https://peaceeducation.org/by-age/prek-k.html>

References

Pickens, J. (2009). Socio-emotional programme promotes positive behavior in preschoolers. *Child Care in Practice*, 15(4), 261–278.

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