Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Chapter 1. The Importance of Social and Emotional Development 1

Social and Emotional Development and Early Learning 2

Today’s Special Challenges 2

What the Research Says 3

The Impact of Early Social and Emotional Experiences 4

The Developing Capacity for Relationships 7

Desire for friendship 7

“Me” versus “we” 8

Social competence 8

About This Book 8

Chapter 2. General Teaching Strategies for Social and Emotional Development 13

General Teaching Strategies 14

Create a supportive environment 14

Help children make the transition from home to school 14

Arrange and equip the classroom for social interactions 16

Implement predictable schedules and routines to create a secure community 18

Foster specific skills through modeling, coaching, and providing opportunities for practice 19

Key Developmental Indicators 22

Chapter 3. KDI 7. Self-Identity 27

How Self-Identity Develops 28

The roots of self-identity 28

Identifying oneself and others 29

Teaching Strategies That Support Self-Identity 31

Focus on children throughout the day 31

Address diversity and differences positively 31

Provide nonstereotyped materials, activities, and role models 32

Encourage family members to become involved in the program 33

Establish ties with the community 34

Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 7. Self-Identity 35

Chapter 4. KDI 8. Sense of Competence 37

How Sense of Competence Develops 38

Sense of competence versus self-esteem 38

Adult encouragement 39

Teaching Strategies That Support a Sense of Competence 40

Encourage self-help skills consistent with children’s abilities and developmental levels 40

Scaffold learning by introducing the next level of challenge when children are ready to move on 41

Support children’s ideas and initiatives 42

Acknowledge children’s efforts and accomplishments 43

Provide opportunities for children to be leaders 44

Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 8. Sense of Competence 46

Chapter 5. KDI 9. Emotions 47

How Emotions Develop 48

The components of emotion 48

Influences on emotional development 49

Teaching Strategies That Support Emotions 50

Accept children’s full range of emotions as normal 50

Name or label children’s emotions as well as your own 52

Call attention to the feelings of others 54

Comment on and discuss feelings throughout the day 54

Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 9. Emotions 56
Chapter 6. KDI 10. Empathy 57
How Empathy Develops 58
  When empathy begins 59
  How young children display empathy 60
Teaching Strategies That Support Empathy 61
  Model caring behavior 61
  Acknowledge and label the feelings that children have in common 62
  Create opportunities for children to act with empathy 63
  Practice perspective-taking in nonsocial situations 63
Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 10. Empathy 65

Chapter 7. KDI 11. Community 67
How Community Develops 69
  Community and well-being 69
  Feelings of responsibility 69
Teaching Strategies That Support Community 70
  Create an atmosphere that fosters mutual respect and responsibility 70
  Call attention to activities the whole class participates in 71
  Involve children in the community outside the classroom 73
Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 11. Community 74

Chapter 8. KDI 12. Building Relationships 75
How Building Relationships Develops 77
  Relationships among children 77
  Relationships with adults 79
Teaching Strategies That Support Building Relationships 80
  Interact with children in a genuine and authentic manner 80
  Maintain a stable group of children and adults 81
  Support the relationships that children establish with one another 82
  Provide opportunities for children to interact with others with whom they are less familiar 83
  Refer children to one another 84

Chapter 9. KDI 13. Cooperative Play 87
How Cooperative Play Develops 88
Teaching Strategies That Support Cooperative Play 90
  Encourage children to plan, work, and recall together 90
  Provide opportunities for collaboration at group times 91
  Help aggressive or withdrawn children join their peers 92
  Play as partners with children 94
Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 13. Cooperative Play 96

Chapter 10. KDI 14. Moral Development 97
How Morality Develops 98
  Theories of moral development 98
  Moral issues important to preschoolers 99
Teaching Strategies That Support Moral Development 100
  Model moral behavior 100
  State situations that involve moral matters in simple cause-and-effect terms 101
  Acknowledge children’s moral behaviors 102
  Involve parents to achieve as much consistency as possible between home and school values 102
Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 14. Moral Development 104

Chapter 11. KDI 15. Conflict Resolution 105
How Conflict Resolution Develops 107
Teaching Strategies That Support Conflict Resolution 108
  Establish a safe classroom with clear expectations 109
  Use a multistep approach to conflict resolution 111
  Help children reflect on problem-solving strategies apart from actual conflict situations 114
Ideas for Scaffolding KDI 15. Conflict Resolution 120

References 123