



March 17, 2022

Social and Emotional Learning in the Outdoors

Participant's Guide

This Participant's Guide will help you capture your ideas as you engage in the webinar content. There is space below for taking notes, and reflection prompts will help you think about ways to use the ideas from the webinar in your own work.

Helpful resources can be found in the Resources section of this guide.

Video Reflection: Sharing a Bucket

As you watch this video, what do you notice? How does the teacher support the children's social and emotional development?



National Center on

Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

This training was supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$10,200,000 with 100% funded by ACF. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

Video Reflection: Friends

As you watch this video, what do you notice? What social and emotional skills are they building as they play?



Differences Between Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

Think about indoor and outdoor spaces. What kinds of things can you learn and do inside? What can you learn and do outside?

Indoor Spaces

Outdoor Spaces

Video Reflection: Give me!

As you watch this short video, think about each child's perspective. What might they each be thinking? Feeling?



Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/interactive-head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework-ages-birth-five>

We'd like to encourage you to use the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) as your guide to understanding social and emotional development. Follow the link above to explore the interactive ELOF. Click on Social and Emotional Development (Preschooler Domains), then click on a sub-domain.



ELOF2GO Mobile Apps



English. Need to access the ELOF on the go? Check out ELOF2GO, a mobile app that includes the ELOF developmental progressions: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/elof2go-mobile-app>



Spanish. Need access to the ELOF on the go in Spanish? The mobile app MiELOF is available here: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/preparacion-escolar/articulo/aplicacion-movil-mielof-en-espanol>



Home Visitors. ELOF@HOME is an app for home visitors that provides on-the-go access to effective practices you can use to support learning goals within the ELOF. Learn more and download the app here: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/mobile-tools-home-visitors>

Video Reflection: Sand Ice Cream

As you watch this video, what do you notice? What strategies is this family child care provider using to interact with children who are different ages?



Video Reflection: Problem Solving

As you watch this video, what do you notice? What strategies does this teacher use to help the two girls understand and communicate with each other?



Big Feelings: What are your strategies?

What strategies can you help children use to manage their big feelings? Do you know how to help a child take a few deep breaths? Can you help a child use their own words to talk about their feelings? Or even to express them?



Reflection: Identity and Belonging

What do you do already to support children's developing sense of identity and belonging?
What could you do to support children's identity and build a sense of belonging outdoors?



Helpful Resources (* materials available in Spanish)

Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (*Many materials are also available in Spanish)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/preparacion-escolar/articulo/marco-de-head-start-sobre-los-resultados-del-aprendizaje-temprano-de-los-ninos>

ELOF2GO and MiELOF

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/efof2go-mobile-app>

ELOF@HOME

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/mobile-tools-home-visitors>

Effective Practice Guides: Social and Emotional Development*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/social-emotional-development>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/preparacion-escolar/effective-practice-guides/desarrollo-social-y-emocional>

Webinars

Front Porch: Using the Natural World to Support Children's Development

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/using-natural-world-support-childrens-development>

Front Porch: Understanding and Using Evidence-Based Social Emotional Curricula

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/understanding-using-evidence-based-social-emotional-curricula>

Front Porch: The Importance of Peer Interaction and Social Pretend Play

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/importance-peer-interaction-social-pretend-play>

Loose Parts on the Playground

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/loose-parts-playground>

Videos

Nature-Based Learning and Development for Teachers

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/nature-based-learning-development-teachers>

Play Promotes Early Development: It's Time for Play! Video Series

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/article/play-promotes-early-development-its-time-play>

- It's Time for Play! Outdoor Play: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/videocast/its-time-play-outdoor-play>

Briefs and Tip Sheets

25 Easy Ideas for Nature Play for Early Childhood Centers*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/25-easy-ideas-nature-play-early-childhood-centers>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/25-ideas-sencillas-para-los-centros-de-la-primera-infancia-para-hacer-juegos-en-contacto-con-la>

Affordable Settings and Elements: Ideas for Cost Effective Solutions (for outdoor play spaces)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/affordable-settings-elements-ideas-cost-effective-solutions>

Benefits of Outdoor Play and Exploration*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/supporting-outdoor-play-exploration-infants-toddlers/benefits-outdoor-play-exploration>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/supporting-outdoor-play-exploration-infants-toddlers/beneficios-del-juego-al-aire-libre-y-la-exploracion>

Childhood in the Garden: A Place to Encounter Natural and Social Diversity*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/childhood-garden-place-encounter-natural-social-diversity>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/learning-environments/article/childhood-garden-place-encounter-natural-social-diversity>

The Current State of Outdoor Play and Exploration in the United States*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/supporting-outdoor-play-exploration-infants-toddlers/current-state-outdoor-play-exploration-united-states>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/supporting-outdoor-play-exploration-infants-toddlers/el-estado-actual-del-juego-al-aire-libre-y-la-exploracion-en-estados>

Everyday Ideas for Increasing Children's Opportunities to Practice Social Skills and Emotional Competencies*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/everyday-ideas-increasing-childrens-opportunities-practice-social-skills-emotional-competencies>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/salud-mental/articulo/ideas-para-poner-en-practica-todos-los-dias-y-fomentar-las-oportunidades-de>

The Great Outdoors*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/blog/great-outdoors>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/blog/los-grandes-espacios-abiertos>

Nature Club Toolkit for Families

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/nature-club-toolkit-families>

Our Natural World (Teacher's Guide)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/our-natural-world>

Outdoor Play Benefits*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/outdoor-play-benefits>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/beneficios-del-juego-al-aire-libre>

Social Stories (tools to support children who have difficulties with social interactions)*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/children-disabilities/article/social-stories>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/ninos-con-discapacidades/articulo/relatos-sociales>

News You Can Use

These resources are infant-toddler focused

Environment as Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/news-you-can-use-environment-curriculum-infants-toddlers>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/hablemos-de-el-medio-ambiente-como-parte-del-curriculo-para-bebes>

Foundations of School Readiness: Social Emotional Development*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/news-you-can-use-foundations-school-readiness-social-emotional-development>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/preparacion-escolar/articulo/el-desarrollo-social-y-emocional-y-su-relacion-con-la-preparacion-para>

Outdoor Spaces*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/news-you-can-use-outdoor-spaces>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/hablemos-de-espacios-al-aire-libre>

Take It Outside / Take It Inside*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/news-you-can-use-take-it-outside>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/news-you-can-use-take-it-inside>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/hablemos-de-salgamos-afuera>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/entornos-de-aprendizaje/articulo/hablemos-de-llevar-la-naturaleza-al-interior>

Additional Outdoor Play Resources on ECLKC

Outdoor Play

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/browse/keyword/outdoor-play>