

# Pyramid Model

## Strategy of the Month

### USING BOOKS

#### TO SUPPORT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### **How can you use books to support social emotional development?**

Children love to read books, especially sitting on the lap of a loving adult. Age appropriate books that have characters and plots that discuss topics such as feelings and relationships can be used to help young children learn how to positively deal with these things in their own life.

##### **How does your child use this strategy?**

Our classrooms use books to introduce, discuss, and practice social skills. The teachers read the stories with a group or individual children, talk about the story and help them identify with the characters, and facilitate activities to help the children experience the book hands-on. Like a self-help book for adults, children can learn from the books and implement the skills in their own lives.

Sometimes if there is not a book already written about a subject a child is having difficulty with (potty training, saying goodbye to parents, behaving appropriately at group time, etc.) the teacher will write one! We call these books "scripted stories for social situations" and they are very effective tools for helping support a child's learning as they give the child the information and expectations they need to be successful in a social situation. Using the child's name and photo also helps make the handmade book more impactful and special to the child.

##### **How does it help support their social-emotional development?**

Using books is an enjoyable for both adults and children alike. This strategy helps embed social skills into a child's day and helps increase positive behavior by directly teaching skills necessary for getting along with others.

##### **How can you try this at home?**

Our local library has many books that address social-emotional themes. Consider checking out these books if your child is having trouble with a specific situation or if you are just looking for a good book to enjoy together. Look for these titles the next time you visit the library:

*Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney

*Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister

*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn

*Glad Monster Sad Monster* by Ed Emberley & Anne Miranda

*Ask your child's teacher more about using books with your child!*

For more information visit [www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu)