What are the characteristics of a socially and emotionally healthy child?

**Positive Emotional Development**
- Recognizes and manages emotions
- Displays empathy for others
- Maintains positive relationships
- Takes turns/shares
- Makes responsible decisions

**Learning Skills**
- Knows most of alphabet
- Counts to 20 or more
- Identifies color/shapes

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Why does social-emotional health matter?

Children with higher social-emotional skills are more successful in school and life. They:
- Do better in school
- Are less likely to drop out of school
- Are less likely to commit crimes in adolescence
- Earn more as adults

Children living in poverty are more likely to suffer social-emotional delays and struggle with school, putting them at a disadvantage.

Less than half of children living in poverty are ready for kindergarten at age 5.

How does this affect our children?

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In Erie and Niagara counties:
- More than 20% of children live in poverty, an impediment to positive social-emotional development.
- 10-15% of young children engage in highly aggressive behavior, which is 2-3 children in each average-size classroom.
- 5% of children are suspended from kindergarten each year.

These skills can be taught!

Evidence-based social emotional curricula improve social-emotional skills, which leads to increased positive social behavior and improved academic performance.

Children receiving evidence-based social-emotional curricula improved 11 to 17 percent on academic test scores.

Preschool expulsions are 27-47% lower when teachers meet regularly with a behavioral consultant.

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To learn more, visit www.hfwcny.org

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