



Promoting Equity and Diversity in Education: The Importance of Social-Emotional Learning



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Overview

Traditionally, schools have emphasized academic achievement and the acquisition of intellectual skills and knowledge. Research over the past two decades, however, has documented the importance of school efforts to foster social-emotional as well as academic competencies, providing students with interpersonal skills needed to function effectively in a complex social world. This presentation describes a rapidly growing movement in North America towards promoting social-emotional competencies as part of the mandate for schools, and evidence for the short- and long-term benefits of such efforts. Social-emotional competencies are considered “master skills” underlying success in both school and in life, but such skills develop very gradually over the time children are in school. After a brief review of children’s social development and the negative consequences of poor interpersonal relations, we explore several different approaches that schools have taken to enhance children’s social-emotional growth (e.g., discipline practices, cooperative learning, conflict resolution and social problem-solving interventions, anti-bullying initiatives, etc). Whether our findings and practices are similar to or applicable in Hong Kong schools is not yet clear, but the hope is that, by sharing ideas across countries and cultures, we can better prepare future generations.

About the Speaker

Shelley Hymel is in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. She holds the Edith Lando Professorship in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) through which she has co-established a Master’s concentration and two Teacher Education cohorts in SEL, as well as an online resource for educators, the SEL Resource Finder (www.selresources.ca). She serves on research advisory committees for UBC’s *Human Early Learning Partnership* (www.earlylearning.ubc.ca), *Alberta’s Life Synergy for Youth* program (<http://lifesynergy4youth.com/>), and Seattle’s *Committee for Children* (www.cfchildren.org) and on the executive team of *PREVNet*, Canada’s national organization for “Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence.” She is co-founder of the international Bullying Research Network (cehs.unl.edu/BRNET/), linking 200 researchers from 17 countries. She works collaboratively with schools and publishes extensively on social development, peer relations, and school bullying, with over 100 refereed articles and chapters to date.

12 Dec 2018 (Wednesday)

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Room B5, LG Floor, Ho Tim Bldg.

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