



Erasmus + VET Strategic Partnership

IENE 8 - Empowering migrant and refugee families with parenting skills

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TITLE OF THE TOOL:

EDUCATION AND SOFT SKILLS FOR CHILDREN (6-12 YEARS)

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TITLE:

Education and Soft Skills for children (6-12 years)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To get knowledge about soft skills for children 6-12 years aged
2. To raise awareness of emotional and behavioral problems of refugee children
3. To develop strategies for supporting refugee children and families

WHAT ARE THE SOFT SKILLS

Soft skills are a combination of social skills, communication skills, character or personality traits, attitudes, career attributes, social intelligence and emotional intelligence quotients, among others, that enable people to navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve their goals with complementing hard skills.

Recent analysis (1) leads us to propose that youth soft skills development should focus on five sets of skills: positive self-concept, self-control, communication, social skills and higher-order thinking (which includes problem-solving, critical thinking and decision-making)

Soft skills are in fact more important than hard skills. “Soft,” or non-cognitive skills, including impulse control, empathy, conscientiousness and perseverance are very much necessary for children to succeed in his academic life, but also in the society.

KEY POINTS

The soft skills to be developed **for 6-12 years children** may include:

- Social skills: interaction with people outside their immediate family, peers, and adults.
- Manners
- Communication
- Listening
- Building rapport
- Empathy
- Problem Solving
- Self Control
- Emotional skills

Emotional and behavioral problems in refugee children

- Refugee children are likely to be exposed to many of the risk factors for emotional and behavioral problems (3).

- As a result of the challenges refugee children face, many have distinct social and emotional needs. For example, some children may have experienced trauma fleeing war-torn countries during their migration. Refugee children have to negotiate new roles and identities in an unfamiliar cultural context. They also have to juggle the attitudes and stereotypes of numerous different social groups and find where they fit in.
- Children from refugee families are likely to see themselves as less popular, less happy and more anxious than other children.
- Sometimes, in spite of this, appear much less disadvantaged in other developmental domains, such as nonverbal copying skills.

ACTIVITY

Describe some role playing activities or games you plan to do with your child to learn:

- Shake hands
- Posture
- Eye contact
- Charm
- Introduce yourself
- Ask a question
- Learn and listen

REFLECTION

Which strategies do you consider are crucial to overcome emotional and behavioral problems of your children? (from *Strategies for Supporting Immigrant Students and Families*)

- Create strong relationships and address challenges for the children.
- Learn more about the ways immigration issues impact children and families
- Become familiar with relevant immigration policies .
- Create different channels for communication with other refugee parents
- Find out organizations that can provide valuable support and insight regarding refugee families – as well as volunteers.
- Learn how stress, anxiety, and trauma affect children of 6-12 age group.
- Become familiar with age-appropriate forms of self-expression and social-emotional support..

SELF ASSESSMENT

Which your child soft skills do you consider to be affected by the refugee challenges?

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