Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten
Kindness and Good Behavior Can and Must be Taught

(updated August 2023)

Developing Social Emotional skills, a growth mindset, and love of learning underlie everything we do! Create joyful pathways to accelerated literacy and honor the whole child.

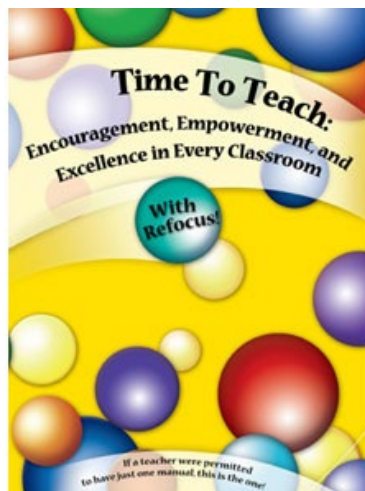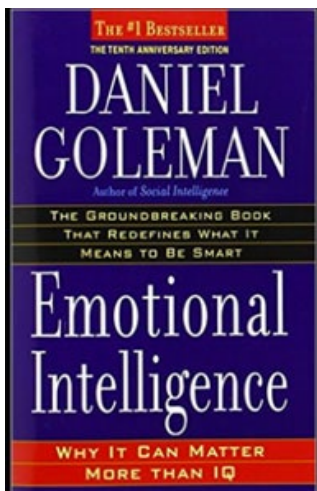Glimpses of Julia Barto's classroom:

Build a joyful community of kindergarten friends…
Give unconditional positive regard…
Believe they will behave…
Teach children to work hard and to be kind…
Create joyful pathways to learning!

Kindergarten Kindness is a year-long theme

It matters to consciously develop Social Emotional Skills (SEL) through positive discipline, growth mindset language, and joyful responsive teaching! As caring educators, this is our contribution to healthier schools and healthier communities. We can—and must—bond with our students, teach them to work hard and be kind, and build healthy behaviors and thinking patterns for success in school—and life!

For over three decades Nellie Edge Seminars has focused on building Emotional Intelligence through carefully chosen language, empowering curriculum, and joyful pathways to literacy. We have studied and documented the work of accomplished teachers. Here are a few articles from my updated manuscript *Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten: Lessons and Celebrations that Spark Joy All Year Long* on TPT

- [Talking Circles: Friends Build Speaking and Listening Skills](#)
- [Hello/Goodbye Book Builds Home-to-School Bonds](#)
- [Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read: Thank You!](#)

Before you speak,
*Think and be smart.*
It's hard to fix
A wrinkled heart!

Award-winning kindergarten colleague Jacque Verrall, NBCT, has written extensively on positive discipline and the value of dramatic play in kindergarten, and I share some of her writing with permission.

- [Discipline Is the Absolute Hardest Part of Teaching: Why I Use Positive Discipline](#)

- [Wrinkled Heart Lesson](#)

Jacque writes, *Never do anything for a child that they are perfectly capable of doing themselves. When you do, you rob them of the opportunity to feel competent. Feeling competent builds self-esteem.*

Use *Conscious Discipline* and create responsive classrooms.
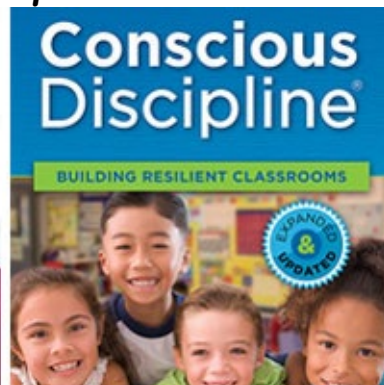
We continue to be inspired by the insightful work of Dr. Becky Bailey, which is documented on her blog, Conscious Discipline, and her latest book: *Conscious Discipline Building Resilient Classrooms Expanded & Updated Edition*. We highly recommend to all educators her PBS video Shifting from Fear to Love.

The First Six Weeks of School, 2nd Edition, by Responsive Classroom

The Morning Meeting Book K-8, 3rd Edition, by Rosanna Kriete & Carol Davis

Responsive Classroom also has some excellent free videos that provide a vision for whole school climates that nurture positive social and emotional skills. Please see the Responsive Classroom model video for an inspiring introduction.

Build social emotional skills and a love of learning!

We like to follow the insightful blogs of Sally Haughey at fairydustteaching.com and especially appreciate the September 20, 2015 blog The Peace Table about conflict resolution in her classroom. She writes, "One of the best gifts from Montessori education has to be the concept of the Peace Table… a conflict resolution tool for the classroom. Traditionally, there is a peace rose that the children can present to a child they have a conflict with and 'go' to the table to work it out."

Our esteemed kindergarten colleague, Diane Bonica (now retired), allowed a colleague to create a delightful [Pinterest board](#) featuring her poetic weekly newsletters documenting teaching that honors the magic of childhood and builds a love of learning.
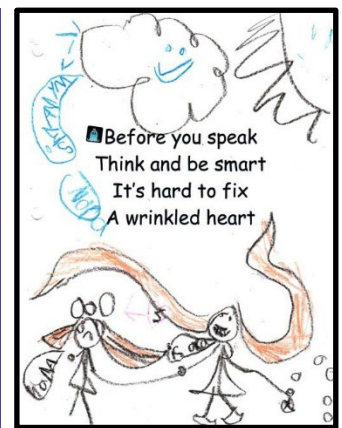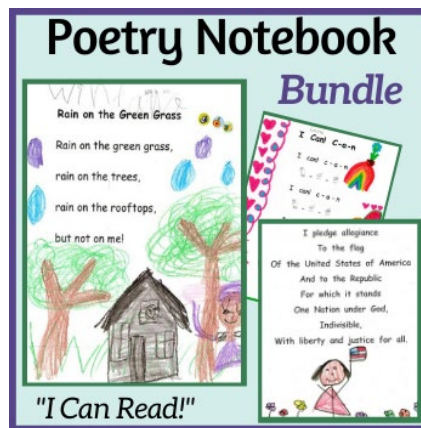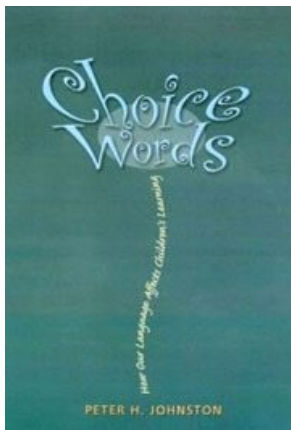
Peter Johnston's **book, *Choice Words: How Oral Language Affects Children's Learning*** (Stenhouse, 2004), further illuminates how our words can change children's lives and how thoughtful language develops a growth mindset. This is still one of my **favorite SEL** resources!

Spark Joy with Social Emotional Learning All Year Long

Weave these SEL lessons and moments into the kindergarten day and build a joyful community!

Visit [Nellie Edge Kindergarten Store](#)

Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten
BUNDLE

Celebrating Islands of Excellence with Joyful Teaching and Learning

Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten
Book and Printables Part 1

Social Emotional Learning in Kindergarten
Book and Printables Part 2

My First Day in Kindergarten

Begin the Year with Social Emotional Learning
Spark Joy All Year Long!

NellieEdge.com

A Family Guide to Social Emotional Learning
In the Early Years

Tt
turtle

NellieEdge.com

Sight Word Songs
MP3 and "I Can Read" Program

L-o-v-e Spells Love
Mia
love
L-o-v-e spells love.

F-a-v-o-r-i-t-e Favorite
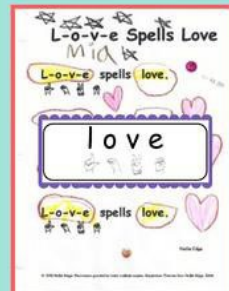
Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!
by Nellie Edge

Write-a-Message

Hello Friend!
You are cool!

Write a Message

You are the best!
Dear Grandma

Independent Writing Center!

NellieEdge.com

44 Editable Kindergarten Parent Letters

Actionable Ways to Involve Families in School Success
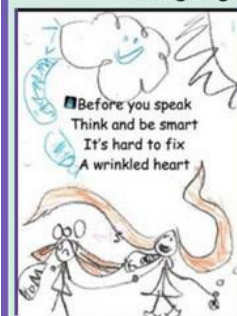NellieEdge.com

I Pledge Allegiance
with American Sign Language

Class-Made Book

Poetry Notebook
Social Emotional Learning and Language Skills

Before you speak
Think and be smart
It's hard to fix
A wrinkled heart

Bonus #2
Songs, Poems & Rhymes with QR Codes & Lessons

"I Can Read"

NellieEdge.com

Joyful Teaching and Learning Supports SEL