



## Self Science Education - SEL in our Schools

It is true that social and emotional issues greatly effect cognitive learning. Social and emotional issues also effect physical motor skill development. The social and emotional domains are very important in learning. They are indeed what I consider 'doors' that allow learning to occur. We understand that both neuroscience and more recent psychological research emphasizes the importance social and emotional domains.

When the learner understands this, it enhances learning even more. I have often taught my clients about how they learn to help them learn. It would be advantageous to educate students about how they learn. This is not the objective of SEL. SEL uses this knowledge to teach emotion awareness and social interaction.

SEL involves identity, agency and issues such as "Do I matter?"; "Can I use my skills?"; and "How should I act in the world?" SEL deals with character development and how a child will view themselves and the world.

SEL deals with issues that are spiritual as well was psychological and emotional.

The concern with SEL and the way it is being used in schools is that it is a powerful tool for training children, for indoctrinating them to one set of beliefs. Often it is used by teachers who do not even understand the neuroscience behind the concepts, but they have seen the power of SEL - SEL works. It can be manipulative.

SEL can be abused and used to direct a student's beliefs to a desired ideology. What beliefs are being imprinted into children? Do all teachers agree with the parents individual spiritual beliefs?

SEL can be used to emphasize and elevate the emotional self as being ultra important. Do we want our children learning to be guided by how they feel and how they perceive others feel about them and even how they are guessing that others feel? Are emotions to be elevated? Are emotions to be trusted for making decisions and choosing what to do?

What does the Bible say about self? James 3:16 *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.* James 1:14-18 *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

Do we want children to learn to focus on their emotions and their self?

We are spirit beings who have souls and live in bodies. Our souls consist of our mind, emotions and our will. SEL talks about whole child education, but instead emphasizes emotions. It can open emotional doors and bring in spiritual beliefs that will lay a foundation other than what the parents believe.

Certainly we can help children learn by creating positive and loving emotional and social climates. Good teachers have always done this. Modern SEL though is being used as a vehicle to indoctrinate our children. The new sex ed is coming in via SEL as well as ideas about racial justice, equity and other social justice issues.

We do not need to have SEL taught in our schools. We do need to have caring teachers, but we do not need the focus on feelings every morning with temperature checks and the emphasis on emotional awareness.