

Relationship Skills Summary

A child's consistent performance of socially acceptable actions that promote and maintain positive connections with others.

How the DESSA Measures Relationship Skills

DESSA K-8	DESSA-HSE
38. compliment or congratulate somebody	23. compliment or congratulate somebody?
40. do something nice for somebody	26. show appreciation of others?
45. show appreciation of others	32. show concern for someone?
47. greet a person in a polite way	35. respond to another person's feelings?
50. attract positive attention from peers	41. offer to help somebody?
55. express concern for another person	43. share credit when appropriate?
61. attract positive attention from adults	
64. make a suggestion or request in a polite way	
70. offer to help somebody	
71. respond to another person's feelings	

Aspects of Relationship Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Treating others as valuable</i> DESSA K-8 Items: 38, 40, 45, 47 DESSA-HSE Items: 23, 26, 43 • <i>Helpful behaviors</i> DESSA K-8 Items: 55, 64, 70, 71 DESSA-HSE Items: 32, 35, 41 • <i>Attracting positive attention</i> DESSA K-8 Items: 50, 61
Developing Relationship Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children learn relationship skills by observing the actions of important people in their lives such as parents, educators, and peers. • Adults can become particularly influential by establishing caring, genuine relationships with children and youth. • Adults can intentionally teach relationship skills through activities and assignments (e.g., teaching complements or helpful behaviors).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many opportunities for adults to teach and reinforce relationship skills occur outside of structured lessons or activities. • Relationship skills must be practiced and reinforced. • Children are at different levels with their relationships skills and teaching should be tailored to individual needs.
<p>Benefits of Relationship Skills</p>	<p>Relationship Skills at home can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead to peaceful, positive interactions at home. • Help a child enjoy school and achieve academically. <p>Relationship Skills at school or out-of-school time programs can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help children feel connected, accepted, and comfortable at school rather than lonely and uncomfortable. • Help children establish important relationships with educators that can lead to social and academic success. • Promote a positive classroom environment with fewer behavioral problems. <p>Relationship Skills can lead to a future of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic and job success. • Personal and professional relationships that help individuals find success and overcome adversity. • Better mental health and well-being and fewer risky, negative behaviors.

For more detailed information about Relationship Skills, please see the full competency guide found in the DESSA Comprehensive SEL System.