

## ***IDAHO EARLY LEARNING EGUIDELINES***

### **GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.**

**Domain 3:** Social and Emotional Development  
**Sub-Domain:** Social Development

[Birth through 8 Months](#)

[6 to 18 Months](#)

[16 to 38 Months](#)

[36 to 60 Months](#)

[60 Months through Kindergarten](#)

[First, Second, and Third Grades](#)

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
Birth through 8 Months	Gazes at others and responds to variation in non-verbal and verbal sounds of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reacts to human face more than to objects.</li> <li>▪ Gazes at other people.</li> <li>▪ Smiles when seeing a smiling face.</li> <li>▪ Watches and observes adults and other children's reactions and behaviors.</li> <li>▪ Responds to others by vocalizing or cooing.</li> <li>▪ Shows caution or distress when someone is crying or upset.</li> <li>▪ Searches for eye contact and sounds from humans, both other children and adults.</li> <li>▪ Responds to changes in intonation of voices.</li> <li>▪ Responds to another's cry or laughter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respond quickly to baby's sounds, cries, and moods in a gentle and reassuring way.</li> <li>▪ Support and stay near baby during stressful situations.</li> <li>▪ Name emotions expressed by the baby and respond empathetically.</li> <li>▪ Model empathetic behavior with adults, children, and animals.</li> <li>▪ Explain what is happening with others (e.g. "Enrico wants his bottle. He is crying hard because it's not quite ready.").</li> <li>▪ During care giving routines, provide opportunities for baby to observe and respond to caregiver's face up close.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for baby to watch and interact with other babies.</li> </ul>

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
6 to 18 Months	Reacts to emotions and actions of familiar children and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognizes and reacts to strong emotion in caregiver or other children.</li> <li>▪ Uses social referencing (others' reaction) and displays of emotions when watching behaviors of others.</li> <li>▪ Shows interest in and excitement about animals and other living things.</li> <li>▪ Uses multiple senses to explore plants, flowers, and other living things.</li> <li>▪ Responds differentially to friendly and unfriendly faces.</li> <li>▪ Offers objects, food, and hugs to others.</li> <li>▪ Sometimes offers an object, a hug, or pat to comfort another person who is upset.</li> <li>▪ Shows concern when others are hurt.</li> <li>▪ Matches emotional expression or state to that of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be aware and respectful of cultural differences in the expression of emotions.</li> <li>▪ Provide mirrors and opportunities for child to see faces and emotions, including their own.</li> <li>▪ Recognize when baby moves away and looks for the response of a caregiver.</li> <li>▪ Provide child with regular opportunities for big, exciting play outdoors, face to face with children and adults.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for child to observe and play with animals, as appropriate and safe.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for children to play together using social games and songs such as rolling a ball, or singing songs that are joyful, such as "When You're Happy and You Know It."</li> <li>▪ Follow child's lead when child is hurt or moving away from the caregiver (e.g. allow child to react first, then support with appropriate response).</li> <li>▪ Name emotions expressed by others (e.g. "She's happy because she just got her favorite food, yogurt!").</li> </ul>

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
16 to 38 Months	Gains simple vocabulary to accurately describe own and others' emotions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses social referencing to gauge how to respond to another person's emotion (e.g. looks toward caregiver to see how he responds when a child is hurt).</li> <li>▪ With adult assistance, offers age appropriate comforting strategies to comfort peers or adults when they are hurt or upset.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates awareness of feelings during pretend play (e.g. soothes a crying baby doll).</li> <li>▪ Identifies expressions in pictures when asked to match the word to the facial expression.</li> <li>▪ In the latter half of the stage, uses words to identify emotional expressions and states of self and others.</li> <li>▪ Realizes and expresses how another child might feel (e.g. "Louisa is crying. I think she is sad.").</li> <li>▪ Treats animals kindly and gently with adult assistance.</li> <li>▪ Takes turns, with assistance.</li> <li>▪ Sometimes waits to get own needs met when other people are distressed.</li> <li>▪ Shows concern about objects related to social behavior (e.g. broken toys, torn clothing, spilled milk, or missing puzzle piece).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide opportunities to identify emotions by the use of pictures, posters, and mirrors.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for social and dramatic play with simple themes and props, including those from own and different cultures.</li> <li>▪ Share the wonders of the natural world with child (e.g. playing outside together; reading books and telling stories about the natural world; handling natural objects such as shells, rocks, plants).</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate and explain responses to loss, injury, and pain (e.g. "JuHee fell down. Let's go see if she needs our help.").</li> <li>▪ Acknowledge child's strong emotions as stepping stones toward coping with the strong emotions.</li> </ul>

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
36 to 60 Months	Recognizes and responds to another's emotions and situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notices and shows concern for peers' feelings.</li> <li>▪ Observes other's reactions to self-actions, sometimes adjusting to other's reactions.</li> <li>▪ Adopts a variety of roles and feelings during pretend play.</li> <li>▪ Identifies feelings of characters in stories.</li> <li>▪ Shows emotional states consistent with events and actions of others.</li> <li>▪ Asks questions about what is alive or not alive.</li> <li>▪ Shows awareness of what others get to do or to have, in relation to self.</li> <li>▪ Uses descriptive words to show a range of emotional states (e.g. Antony is so angry that his face turned red" or "That man in the picture is happy because he is laughing so hard.").</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Model a friendly, positive, and respectful manner when listening and responding to child's comments and suggestions.</li> <li>▪ Name and discuss feelings (e.g. "I see that you're disappointed because...").</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for child to play with friendly and gentle animals, with close supervision.</li> <li>▪ Schedule time for children to engage in sustained, uninterrupted play together, so that they can work out ways to communicate their intentions and feelings.</li> <li>▪ Offer opportunities for child to take care of living things (e.g. plants, pets, and butterflies).</li> <li>▪ In play groups, offer group activities such as washing baby dolls in tubs full of water when new siblings are expected in families. Offer conversation starters about what a new baby might need and let the conversation move from there.</li> <li>▪ Acknowledge a child's interest in things that live and die (e.g. plants, pets, and butterflies).</li> <li>▪ When significant people in the child's environment die or leave, teachers and families can talk together about sensitive issues of death and loss, and plan strategies for helping the child.</li> <li>▪ Learn about the many variations in how children cope with loss and grief. Stay attuned to the child's play themes of loss and grief.</li> </ul>

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
60 Months through Kindergarten	Adjusts plans in consideration of others' emotions and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicates others' feelings.</li> <li>▪ Comforts family members or friends who are not feeling well or are upset, with comfort strategies that would comfort self (e.g. hands a teddy bear to a sad friend, or to an upset parent).</li> <li>▪ Expresses excitement about special events, accomplishments of others, and community events in the near environment, and in family and cultural contexts.</li> <li>▪ Volunteers to assist and comfort peers, using words and actions.</li> <li>▪ Stands up for self needs, but will sometimes adjust own needs when it is judged that someone else's need is greater than own need.</li> <li>▪ Asks questions and comments about the impact of self and others on the earth and living things.</li> <li>▪ Explores ideas of what is fair and unfair for self and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help child to assist others and take others' perspectives into consideration.</li> <li>▪ Set an example for child by respecting the natural world and discussing ways to take care of our natural world (e.g. not littering on the playground, or protecting a newly planted tree from balls).</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for children to care for classroom pets or plants.</li> <li>▪ Discuss how and why a character acts and reacts in a story.</li> <li>▪ Offer stories that show different ways of celebrating, or carrying out typical activities of life.</li> </ul>

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT			
PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR			
GOAL 32: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
<p><b>First, Second, and Third Grades</b></p>	<p>Shows sympathy and empathy for children and adults across settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies and communicates a wide range of emotional states and feelings for self and others.</li> <li>▪ Considers that people may have more than one emotion at a time (e.g. smiling at a memory at a funeral, though feeling sad).</li> <li>▪ Asks questions about and makes comments about situations where mixed emotions are displayed.</li> <li>▪ Uses a variety of strategies to comfort family members or friends matching what the child thinks might fit that person.</li> <li>▪ Refines cognitive de-centering skills to take another person's point of view.</li> <li>▪ Takes care of living things, with minimal adult assistance.</li> <li>▪ Has a sense of justice and fairness, standing up for self and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for child to share and discuss feelings.</li> <li>▪ Help child to assist others and take others' perspectives into consideration.</li> <li>▪ Implement classroom routines that show attention to protect the classroom community and the environment in the community (e.g. conserve natural resources through recycling, address issues of public awareness with campaigns, perform neighborhood cleanups, or write letters of concern or comment to elected officials and business leaders).</li> <li>▪ Support conflict negotiation skills, using the child's ability to think of own and other's needs and perspective.</li> <li>▪ Read poems and books and offer creative art opportunities for a child to express loss and grief.</li> </ul>