Who We Are

Committee for Children is a global nonprofit that has championed the safety and well-being of children through social-emotional learning (SEL) for more than 40 years. With a history of action and influence, we’re known as a leader in social-emotional education and a force in advocacy, research, and innovation in the field. We take a comprehensive approach to SEL, promoting social-emotional well-being from birth to early adulthood—supporting not just classrooms, but entire communities.

We rise to meet societal challenges to ensure children everywhere can thrive. But we’re just getting started. Here’s how we’re helping the world grow kinder.

“Children and educators need the transformative power of social-emotional learning more than ever before. As leaders in this field for over four decades, we focus on building authentic partnerships that passionately champion child well-being across the globe.”

Andrea Lovanhill, CEO
Committee for Children

Vision
Safe children thriving in a just and peaceful world

Mission
To foster the safety and well-being of children through social-emotional learning and development

North Star Goal
To positively and equitably transform the social-emotional well-being of 100 million children annually by 2030
What We Do

Although we may be best known for our SEL curricula, the Second Step® family of programs, our work doesn’t stop there. We’re here to serve as a strategic partner, whether we’re connecting you with experts in the field, providing policy support, or offering insight into SEL implementation fidelity and success.

Research

Our team of research scientists, all with expertise in various aspects of child development and education, is focused on SEL research relating to Early Learning through Grade 12, educator collective efficacy, out-of-school time, and adult SEL. Our scientists track the pulse of the education field and push the envelope whenever possible to innovate.

Programs

Our suite of award-winning programs rooted in social-emotional learning helps transform schools into connected, supportive, and successful learning environments. Our programs are available in print and digital formats.

Education Partnerships

Passionate about building long-lasting, supportive, and authentic relationships with educators, our Education Partnerships Team provides customized consultation over the lifetime of the partnership to meet each client’s specific needs.

Implementation

We understand what it takes to implement SEL with fidelity and success. Over the past 40 years we’ve gained unparalleled insight into implementation, including identifying potential challenges. Our Implementation and Training Team can provide practitioners with direct support and connect them to clients with similar education settings and populations.

Innovation

From a mentorship program for new moms to a smart toy that helps kids regulate strong emotions, our Innovation Team leads the field in novel interventions to advance SEL. We’ve developed and launched a number of successful products and are always looking to collaborate with like-minded partners.

Policy and Advocacy

Our Policy and Advocacy work encompasses a wide range of state and federal activities that influence decision-makers and connect state and local youth leadership. We develop and advance research-informed policy in three priority areas—SEL, bullying prevention, and child sexual abuse prevention.

Public Awareness

Our national campaigns provide free, research-informed resources, extending the reach of our impact and helping shape conversation across the country. Our Hot Chocolate Talk® child-protection campaign helps families start conversations about child sexual abuse, and our award-winning Captain Compassion® comics empower kids and adults to put a stop to bullying.
Second Step® programs are research-based, teacher-informed, and classroom-tested. They promote the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of children from Early Learning through Grade 12.

The holistic approach of Second Step programs helps schools and communities address stress, anxiety, and trauma that students, teachers, and staff may experience. Providing a strong foundation of social-emotional skills gives children and educators the support they need to handle everyday challenges, and the tools to navigate times of crisis.

**Classroom-Based Curriculum**
Our universal, classroom-based SEL curriculum for Early Learning through Grade 8 provides students with a strong foundation to excel in key social-emotional competencies, and gives educators and families resources to support their students’ learning.

**Out-of-School Time**
For SEL to provide its greatest benefits, it should take place in all facets of a child’s life. Our K-5 program for after-school settings allows learning to continue beyond the classroom.

**Bullying Prevention**
Our Second Step® Bullying Prevention Unit gives educators and school staff the training and tools needed to effectively address school bullying in Kindergarten through Grade 5.

**Child Protection**
Our comprehensive Second Step® Child Protection Unit for Early Learning through Grade 5 blends prevention and intervention research to empower adults and kids to recognize, respond to, and report abuse.

**SEL for Adults**
Our SEL for adults program helps every adult in a school strengthen their social-emotional skills. It can positively transform school culture and improve teacher well-being, and in doing so can help ensure that the social-emotional needs of children are met.

**Success Stories**

**A Cultural Shift Through SEL—Anaheim, CA**
Anaheim Elementary School District teachers noticed not just decreased problem behavior, but a positive change in culture and student success after implementing Second Step programs.

**A Focus on Behavioral Health—Boston, MA**
Boston Public Schools is seeing results from Second Step programs, from empowered teachers and a positive shift in student behaviors to schoolwide cultural change.

**A Community Responds to Trauma—Tooele County, UT**
After experiencing a traumatic series of events, the Tooele County School District took action to support not only its students but its whole community.

© 2021 Committee for Children | cfchildren.org