

Tools of the Mind

PreK Curriculum, 7th Edition

Alignment with the Massachusetts Standards for Kindergarten Social and Emotional Learning, and Approaches to Play and Learning



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Self-Awareness	
Standard SEL1: The child will be able to recognize, io	dentify, and express his/her emotions.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
label basic emotions and recognize some complex emotions, and associate them with facial expressions, body language, and behaviors (e.g., pride, embarrassment, frustration, nervousness, loneliness).	 Group Dramatization Dramatization Story Lab- Character Empathy, Active Listening, Vocabulary, Connections Share the News Buddy Reading
• use richer and more specific vocabulary related to the nuances of emotions (e.g., happy=ecstatic, glad, joyful, elated, delighted, pleased, etc.).	 Story Lab- Character Empathy, Active Listening, Vocabulary, Connections Share the News Group Dramatization Dramatization Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About
express and share own feelings in a variety of ways (e.g., through speaking, writing, drawing, dramatization).	 Story Lab- Character Empathy, Active Listening, Vocabulary, Connections Share the News Buddy Reading Make a Book Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Group Dramatization Dramatization
 with support, describe reasons for own feelings and situations that cause them (stimuli/provocations) 	 Story Lab- Character Empathy, Connections Share the News Dramatization Dispute Bag
Standard SEL2: The child will demonstrat	te accurate self-perception.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
 describe multiple personal characteristics realistically (e.g., physical characteristics, abilities/skills, interests, preferences). 	 Story Lab- Connections, Active Listening Share the News Dramatization
• share information about self with others, and recognize when sharing information is not appropriate (e.g., recognize family or cultural norms about sharing information).	 Share the News Buddy Reading Story Labs- Active Listening, Connections



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Self-Awareness	
• compare/differentiate own physical characteristics, preferences, thoughts, and feelings from those of others (e.g., "I have brown eyes, she has blue eyes;" "I like X; he likes Y").	 Dramatization Story Lab- Active Listening, Connections Share the News
demonstrate awareness and appreciation of self as part of a family, culture/ethnicity, language, community, or group.	 Dramatization Story Lab- Connections Share the News
explain the rationale for one preference/choice over another (e.g., "I need to do more work on my project in the art center," "I like milk better than juice.")	 Mystery Math Activities- Mystery Categories Learning Conferences Learning Plans Share the News Story Lab- Active Listening, Connections
Standard SEL3: The child will demonstrate self-e	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
display confidence in personal competencies, and satisfaction with results of own work (e.g., make positive statements about self).	 Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Learning Conferences Learning Plans All Mystery Literacy and Math Activities
appropriately share successful mastery of skills or tasks with others.	 Study Buddies Learning Plans Learning Conferences Forbidden Words Paired Buddy Reading Stackers I & II Calling Base Camp
independently use skills for daily living with confidence and competence.	 Dramatization Dispute Bag Center Chart and Team Organization
• demonstrate confidence in own abilities as well as realistic perception of limitations (e.g., challenges or areas in which he/she might need assistance).	 Learning Plans Learning Conferences Study Buddies
express independent thoughts, defend ideas, and take appropriate action to defend own rights.	 Share the News All Story Labs Dispute Bag What I Know, Think and Wonder



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Self-Awareness	
demonstrate willingness to take reasonable risks (e.g., participate in an unfamiliar activity, try a new skill, attempt a challenging experience again).	 Learning Plans Learning Conferences Center Chart & Team Organization Must Dos & Can Dos

Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Self-Management	
Standard SEL4: The child will demonstrate impuls	se control and stress management.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
• independently use coping strategies to manage intense or difficult feelings or decrease levels of distress (e.g., separating self, counting to ten, etc.).	 Share the News Story Lab- Character Empathy, Connections Dispute Bag
manage, regulate, and communicate wants/needs (e.g., use strategies to help delay gratification, such as choosing an alternative).	All Tools of the Mind activities support the development of self-regulation.
analyze challenging situations and identify healthy ways to address them (e.g., strategies for handling mistakes such as erasing, correcting, starting over, etc.).	 Classroom Rules Share the News Study Buddies Learning Conferences Story Lab- Character Empathy, Connections
adjust/modulate behaviors (voice level, body movement, etc.) appropriate to various settings with minimal support (e.g., library, hallways, auditorium, bus, cafeteria, etc.).	 Physical Self-Regulation Activities- Freeze Game, Pattern Movement, Simon Says, Movement Songs & Dances Self-Regulation Transition Activities- Forbidden Words, Listen & Remember, Do What I Do, and Pretend Transitions Classroom Rules Classroom Practices Dramatization
independently adapt/transition among environments or activities with minimal support (e.g., re-entering program after out-of-class activities; moving from one activity to another).	 Physical Self-Regulation Activities- Freeze Game, Pattern Movement, Simon Says, Movement Songs & Dances Self-Regulation Transition Activities- Forbidden Words, Listen & Remember, Do What I Do, and Pretend Transitions Center Chart & Team Organization
demonstrate flexibility in thinking or actions (e.g., ask for suggestions; think of alternatives; adapt to unexpected changes).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Study Buddy Forbidden Words Dispute Bag Learning Conferences



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Social Awarenes	s
Standard SEL5: The child will display e	npathetic characteristics.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
 distinguish others' feelings and begin to speculate on why they might be different from his or her own. recognize, label, and connect with others' expression of feelings (e.g., explain 	 Story Labs- Active Listening, Character Empathy, Connections Share the News Story Labs- Active Listening, Character Empathy, Connections
reasons/causes).	Share the NewsStudy Buddies
 respond to another's emotions and needs (e.g., share a similar personal experience; advocate for someone; relinquish an object or turn for another). 	 Dispute Bag Story Labs- Active Listening, Character Empathy, Connections Share the News
 predict others' feelings, responses, and behavior, and make decisions accordingly. 	 Dispute Bag Dramatization Share the News Story Labs- Character Empathy, Prediction, Inference
show kindness or regard for others or for other living things most of the time.	Study BuddiesCenter Chart & Team OrganizationClassroom Rules
Standard SEL6: The child will recognize diversity	and demonstrate respect for others.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
acknowledge and identify commonalities and differences among people (e.g., race, culture, language, abilities, etc.).	 Story Lab- Character Empathy, Active Listening, Learning Facts, Vocabulary Building Background Knowledge Dramatization Mystery Literacy Activity- Mystery Question Tallying
communicate differences in families, languages, and cultures, in positive ways.	 Story Lab- Character Empathy, Active Listening, Learning Facts, Vocabulary Who Am I? Game Building Background Knowledge Dramatization
identify and appreciate the abilities, skills, and qualities of others.	 Study Buddies Center Chart & Team Organization What I Know, Think and Wonder



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Social Awareness	
accept the validity of others' perspectives, ideas, and motivations (i.e., they are not "wrong," just different).	 Share the News Mystery Activities All Story Labs Study Buddies Center Chart & Team Organization What I Know, Think and Wonder Dramatization
show respect for others by using social conventions (e.g., raising hand to speak, taking turns, respecting authority).	 Classroom Rules Study Buddies Buddy Reading Center Chart & Team Organization Author's Chair
• independently balance own needs with needs of others (e.g., sharing, dividing materials, giving up an object, moving to make space for another).	 Dispute Bag Share the News Center Chart & Team Organization Dramatization

Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Relationship Skills	
Standard SEL7: The child will demonstrate the ability to con	nmunicate with others in a variety of ways.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
 initiate and engage in multiple and reciprocal communications or conversations with other children throughout the day (including home language or alternative communication systems as needed). 	 Mystery Activities Buddy Reading Forbidden Words Share the News Center Chart & Team Organization Dramatization
• initiate and engage in substantive/focused communication or conversations with adults in the program (including home language or alternative communication systems as needed).	Learning ConferencesDramatization
listen or demonstrate attention and respond when peers or adults talk (or communicate in non-verbal ways such as sign language, gestures, body language).	 Buddy Reading Share the News Rhyming Game All Story Labs Group Dramatization Dramatization



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Relationship Skills	
Standard SEL8: The child will engage socially, and build relati	onships with other children and with adults.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	onships with other enharch and with addition
initiate, expand, and maintain interactions with other children most of the time (e.g., invent/set up activities).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Buddy Reading Share the News Who Am I? Game Dramatization I Have Who Has Games Buddy Checks Market Farm Stackers I & II
form and maintain increasingly closer and more nurturing friendships (e.g., show loyalty, demonstrate concern for needs/wants of particular children).	 Numerals Game Study Buddies Share the News Community Building Activities Dramatization Story Labs- Character Empathy, Connections Center Chart & Team Organization
 demonstrate trusting, caring relationships with more than one adult in the program and school community. 	Community Building Activities Learning Conferences
• use play with others to practice and extend understanding of social roles and relationships	Group Dramatization
(e.g., create and enact more complex dramatizations using dialogue and/or props).	Dramatization
Standard SEL9: The child will demonstrate th	e ability to manage conflict.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
recognize and act on conflict situations in a positive manner most of the time (e.g., explain situation with objectivity; listen to others' perspectives or solutions).	 Dispute Bag Dramatization Center Chart & Team Organization Share the News
be able to listen to and acknowledge another's perspective and rationale (e.g., explain/restate understanding of another person's perspective).	 Share the News All Story Labs Study Buddies Center Chart & Team Organization What I Know, Think and Wonder Dramatization



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Relationship Skills	· ·	
Kelationship Skins		
• distinguish when it is appropriate to seek adult help and when conflict can be managed by	Dispute Bag	
peers.	Share the News	
	Classroom Rules	
be able to initiate and engage in compromise or bargaining strategies to seek a middle	Dispute Bag	
ground or a mutually satisfactory outcome (e.g., use if/then statements, concessions, etc.).	Share the News	
identify some strategies for preventing interpersonal conflicts.	Share the News	
	Classroom Rules	
Standard SEL10: The child will demonstrate the ability to seek help and offer help.		
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
	Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter	
	Summaries, Story Boards and Write About	
often attempt reasonably challenging tasks independently before requesting assistance.	Study Buddies	
	All Mystery Literacy and Math Activities	
	Dispute Bag	
• describe and use appropriate strategies for seeking assistance (e.g., big problem vs. small	Share the News	
problem).	Classroom Rules	
	Story Labs- Character Empathy, Connections	
	Classroom Rules	
ask for assistance from adults in socially acceptable ways.	Share the News	
	Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter	
	Summaries, Story Boards and Write About	
ask for assistance from peers in socially acceptable ways.	Study Buddies	
	Buddy Reading	
	Paired Buddy Reading	
	Study Buddies	
 recognize when another needs help and offer assistance. 	Share the News	
	Story Labs- Character Empathy, Connections	

Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Responsible Decision Making		
Standard SEL11: The child will demonstrate beginning personal, social, and ethical responsibility.		
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
communicate reasons for rules (benefits to self and others).	Classroom Rules Classroom Rules II: Center Rules	



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Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Responsible Decision Making		
understand and follow rules, limits, and expectations with minimal prompting/assistance.	 Classroom Rules Classroom Rules II: Center Rules Center Chart & Team Organization 	
take on responsibilities and follow through on them (e.g., volunteer for and carry out tasks).	 Dispute Bag Dramatization Center Chart & Team Organization Clean-up Song 	
Standard SEL12: The child will demonstrate the ability to reflect on and	evaluate the results of his or her actions and decisions.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
• identify personal opportunities and take responsibility for the well- being/comfort of others and the group (e.g., making a guest feel welcome, helping someone who is less able).	 Story Lab-Character Empathy Study Buddies Center Chart & Team Organization 	
• identify and communicate a social/ethical problem (e.g., describe and report a problem).	Share the News Dispute Bag	
 with support, discuss and identify possible causes and solutions for a social/ethical problem. 	Share the News Classroom Rules Classroom Rules II: Center Rules	
• recognize situations as safe vs. dangerous and know what action to take (e.g., stranger danger, safety, etc.).	 All classroom routines and rules support the recognition of safe/unsafe practices Story Lab – Connections, Vocabulary, and/or Learning Facts 	
• resist negative peer pressure (e.g., refuse to participate in peer actions that are in conflict with rules or appropriateness).	 Share the News Classroom Rules Center Chart & Team Organization 	
• take steps to stop teasing/bullying and/or deal with it effectively (e.g., speaking up; seeking support from an adult).	 Classroom Rules Share the News Story Lab- Character Empathy Dispute Bag 	

Tools of the Mind Activity	
Approaches to Play and Learning	
Standard APL1: The child will demonstrate initiative, self-direction, and independence.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
Must Dos & Can Dos	
DramatizationCenter Planning	



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Approaches to Play and I	
Approaches to 1 my and Bearing	
 demonstrate eagerness to learn about and participate in a variety of topics, ideas, and tasks, and explore these interests in depth. 	 Building Background Knowledge Dramatization Learning Conferences Science Observation Station
• independently seek new experiences and attempt increasingly complex challenges (physically, cognitively, or socially).	 Learning Plans Learning Conferences Center Chart & Team Organization Must Dos & Can Dos Buddy Reading
 engage in planning, goal-setting, and decisions with some assistance (e.g., decide with whom to work and play, and under what circumstances; describe steps to reaching goals, and processes/materials to be used). 	 Center Planning Dramatization Center Chart & Team Organization Must Dos & Can Dos Buddy Reading Stackers I & II
 independently use a variety of resources to find answers to questions, to solve problems, or to create. 	 Building Background Knowledge Forbidden Words Science Observation Station Dispute Bag Treasure Hunt
Standard APL2: The child will demonstrate eage	rness and curiosity as a learner.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
ask "why" questions about unknown future events and phenomena, as well as about the here and now (e.g., how, what if).	 Daily Schedule Mystery Activities- Mystery Categories Building Background Knowledge Dramatization Science Observation Station
 try a wide range of new experiences (e.g., materials, tasks, academic or physical skills), both independently and with peers or adults. 	 Learning Plans Learning Conferences Center Chart & Team Organization Must Dos & Can Dos Buddy Reading Physical Self-Regulation- Freeze Games



Learning, and Approaches to Pi	lay and Learning	
Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Approaches to Play and Learning		
• with support, seek information from a variety of sources, such as books, the Internet, experts, and observations.	Building Background Knowledge Dramatization Science Observation Station	
 describe or demonstrate how he/she likes to learn best (e.g., observing, imitating, asking questions, hands-on investigation). 	Learning Conferences	
Standard APL3: The child will be able to maintain focus and atte	ention, and persist in efforts to complete a task.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
independently maintain focus on a project for a sustained period of time, until completed.	 Must Dos & Can Dos Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Make a Book Science Observation Station 	
resist distraction and maintain attention to a task or activity (e.g., teacher instruction, multiple activities occurring simultaneously) with minimal support.	 Graphics Practice All Story Labs Jack and Annie's Secret Message Physical Self-Regulation Activities- Freeze Games; Pattern Movement Group Dramatization Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Must Dos & Can Dos Buddy Reading² Numberline Word Problems 	
continue with or return to activities despite distractions or interruptions.	 Graphics Practice Chapter Summaries Must Dos & Can Dos Physical Self-Regulation Activities- Freeze Game, Pattern Movement, Simon Says, Movement Songs & Dances Self-Regulation Transition Activities- Forbidden Words, Listen & Remember, Do What I Do, and Pretend Transitions 	
contribute to discussions, holding in mind both the topic of discussion and the contributions of others.	Share the NewsAll Story LabsForbidden Words	
independently persist in spite of frustration or disappointment.	 Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Paired Buddy Reading Graphics Practice Dramatization 	



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Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Approaches to Play and Learning		
work to complete projects to own satisfaction based on personal standards of quality or completion ("good enough" or "finished").	 Individual Scaffolded Writing- Center Planning, Chapter Summaries, Story Boards and Write About Learning Conferences Make a Book Learning Records 	
Standard APL4: The child will demonstrate creativi	ity in thinking and use of materials.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
use materials, tools, information, and experiences to express ideas or convey meaning in new and different ways.	 Group Dramatization Dramatization Building Background Knowledge 	
describe or represent the difference between fantasy situations and reality.	 Story Lab- Learning Facts, Predictions Building Background Knowledge Dramatization What I Know, Think and Wonder For Real or For Pretend 	
use humor to play with concepts/language or to engage or entertain others as culturally appropriate (e.g., jokes, riddles, songs, rhymes).	 Riddle & Joke Books Silly Sentences Peanut Mix-up Forbidden Words Dramatization 	
use imagination and other materials to produce new ideas.	 Forbidden Words Background Building Knowledge Dramatization Venger Drawing & Venger Collage 	
combine materials and equipment to express ideas through various creative arts.	Dramatization	
Standard APL5: The child will cooperate with	n others in play and learning.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
suggest and listen to ideas for play with others (e.g., board games, playground games, role play).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Community Building Activities Dramatization Study Buddies Share the News Dispute Bag 	



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Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity	
Approaches to Play and Learning		
collaborate and negotiate play with two or more children (e.g., who will go first, roles each participant will play, assuming various responsibilities).	 Center Planning & Team Organization Sound-by-Sound Board Game Dramatization Dispute Bag Share the News Math activities: Market Farm, Stackers, Numerals Game 	
cooperate successfully in play and work with others with little prompting (e.g., listening and responding to needs of others, helping or advising one another).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Dramatization Study Buddies Share the News Dispute Bag Buddy Reading 	
use cooperative learning strategies to accomplish a task or solve a problem (e.g., brainstorming ideas or steps, identifying resources, designating/accepting responsibilities, co-constructing processes to be used, sharing knowledge or discoveries).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Study Buddies Stackers I & II Market Farm Paired Buddy Reading 	
recognize and respect shared leadership (e.g., be a leader and respect others as leaders).	 Center Chart & Team Organization Dramatization Study Buddies Share the News 	
• explain (or represent) how cooperative strategies facilitated the process for accomplishing a task or solving a problem.	Learning ConferencesDramatization	
Standard APL6: The child will seek multiple solution	ons to a question, task, or problem.	
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may		
identify increasingly complex problems and strategies for solving them (e.g., experimentation, reasoning, research).	 Story Lab- Learning Facts Building Background Knowledge Science Observation Station Treasure Hunt Stackers I & II Find Peanut 	
identify pros and cons of possible solutions, then select and implement one.	 Mystery Activities Dramatization Share the News Story Lab- Prediction Science Observation Station 	
verify cause and effect predictions and speculate about how or why the outcome might have been different.	Science Observation StationStory Lab- Learning Facts, Prediction	



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Approaches to Play and L	
 with support, formulate and test hypotheses, make inferences, and draw connections to previous experiences and information. try different solutions when the first attempt does not work. 	Science Observation Station Story Lab- Learning Facts Science Observation Station
Standard APL7: The child will demonstra	 te organizational skills.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
 independently organize materials appropriately (e.g., put away materials when finished, organize materials by categories). 	 Clean-Up Routine Classroom Rules Classroom Rules II: Center Rules
• independently carry out organizational routines (e.g., gather personal belongings at end of day).	 Classroom Rules Daily Schedule Clean-Up Routine
describe and implement multiple steps to be followed for an activity or project.	 Center Chart & Team Organization Must Dos and Can Dos Stackers I & II Market Farm
• demonstrate awareness of the weekly schedule (e.g., specials, half days, etc.); anticipate and prepare for coming events.	Daily ScheduleTimeline Calendar
• manage time for tasks or activities with minimal support (e.g., recognize when and how to prepare for or close an activity, task, or process).	Center Chart & Team OrganizationClean-Up Routine
Standard APL8: The child will be able to ret	ain and recall information.
By the end of Kindergarten, a child may	
relate past experiences with details.	 Share the News Story Lab- Active Listening, Connections Story Timeline
• use intentional strategies to support visual memory (e.g., focusing on specific details, spatial placement).	Do What I DoLook and RememberMemory Game
recall and relate auditory information.	 Listen and Remember Syllable Clapping Listening Center Guess My Number Story Timeline Story Lab- Story Grammar, Story Comparisons, Connections



Standard	Tools of the Mind Activity
Approaches to Play and Learning	
apply prior knowledge to new situations, relationships, and problem solving.	 Share the News Story Lab- Predictions, Connections, Story Grammar, Learning Facts, Story Comparisons Dramatization