



RESEARCH FOCUS: Social Skills & Adaptive Functioning

Teachers and Parents as Partners, known as TAPP, is an innovative, effective approach that helps educators address challenging behaviors and academic problems for long-term success. Decades of research have shown that TAPP consistently improves children's academic, social and behavioral outcomes, while building partnerships between parents and teachers.

Why Does This Matter?

Students experiencing difficulties with social skills and adaptive behaviors face significantly more challenges with peer relationships and school engagement than peers without these difficulties. Social skills and the ability to adapt in various social situations are essential for lifelong success. Parents and teachers can work together to support a child's social development at both home and school.

What We Learned

TAPP consistently improves students' social skills and adaptive behaviors, and the benefits maintain for at least one year after the intervention is completed. This may be helpful at minimizing the risk of long-term social-emotional difficulties.

Supporting Findings

- Students who participate in TAPP are observed to demonstrate increased positive cooperation with peers.¹
- Students whose parents and teachers participate in TAPP have greater improvements in their social skills than similar students without TAPP.^{2,3}
- When teachers and parents collaborate through TAPP, children's observed social skills across home and school show significantly greater improvements than when teachers work alone.⁴



- Students whose parents and teachers participate in TAPP are observed to significantly improve their adaptive behaviors (e.g., adaptability, communication skills) compared to peers whose parents and teachers do not collaborate.^{2,3}
- Positive effects of TAPP on student adaptive functioning and social skills are maintained 1-year later.⁵

Takeaways

- Collaboration among parents and teachers through TAPP is associated with significant improvements in students' social-emotional skills and adaptive behaviors.
- The positive gains students experience through TAPP maintain for at least one year.
- The TAPP process diminishes concerns with adaptive behaviors at home and school.

Citations

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