It Works!

Independent evaluation research proves that BEST has a positive impact on young children’s behavior.

WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING...

“I see my students able to control their behavior with other students without as much teacher intervention. My students often use what they are taught in this program.”

“Our students are kinder to each other and better listeners.”

“They have learned how to handle situations dealing with anger.”

“Students used the strategies and vocabulary from the program unprompted to solve issues in the room with their peers.”

“Great, kid-friendly ways to get them to learn how to solve their own problems.”

“Kids don’t always know how to deal with feelings appropriately. I loved setting aside the time to focus on feelings. Great program!”

Want BEST for students in your school?

For more information, contact BEST Director Mary Lou Montanari. (716) 886-1242 ext. 338 montanari@mhawny.org

Since 1962, The Mental Health Advocates of WNY* has provided education, public information, prevention programs, training, advocacy and supportive services to adults, families and children in WNY.

To learn more, sign up for our mailing list at MHAWNY.ORG

*DID YOU KNOW...

85% of a person’s intellect, personality and social skills are developed by age 5.

Children who have positive social emotional skills do better in school.

50% of all children start school without the social emotional skills necessary for academic success.

1021 Broadway, 5th Floor, Buffalo NY 14212
(716) 886-1242 | MHAWNY.ORG
ABOUT BEST

BASIC EMOTIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

Research proves starting school with strong social and emotional skills sets students up for lifelong success.

BEST is a classroom-based program that helps students in Pre-K through Second Grade develop healthy social and emotional skills.

Our skilled staff provides BEST in individual classrooms in two formats:

TEACHING KIDS TO CARE

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Teaching Kids to Care helps young children develop the skills they need to make and keep friends, express their feelings appropriately and behave in the classroom. Program includes a series of interactive classroom lessons that feature stories, songs and role playing activities.

When kids learn to care for and about each other, there is no limit to what they can achieve.

To enhance the benefits of the program, teachers and families receive follow up materials to reinforce what students are learning.

TOO GOOD FOR VIOLENCE

GRADES K-2

When young children learn how to deal with frustration, anger and disappointment in a healthy way, they have the tools they need to handle conflicts more appropriately.

Too Good for Violence is an evidence-based program that uses cooperative learning, role play, games, small group activities and class discussions to help primary school students handle their emotions, improve their interpersonal skills and reduce anti-social and violent behavior.

It includes engaging lessons on identifying and managing emotions, communicating effectively, respecting oneself and others, and solving problems peacefully. Students also learn strategies for dealing with conflict, anger management and bullying.

To encourage students’ families to participate, each lesson includes a home activity for parents or caregivers to complete with their child.

BEST is available to all public and private schools in Erie and Niagara counties. Cost for the program averages $65 per student per year. Grant funding may be available. Both programs have been adapted for distance learning.

To learn more about how you can bring BEST to your school, contact BEST Director Mary Lou Montanari at (716) 886-1242 ext 338 or email montanari@mhawny.org