



# **Empowering Futures: Building Work-Based Learning and Transition Skills Through Community**

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Manager)

# Icebreaker

## Please share:

- *Your name*
- *Pronouns (if you would like to share)*
- *What brings you here? (parent, community member, teacher, etc.)*
- *One thing you love about yourself?*





This presentation will explore how **community building** plays a vital role in helping young people develop essential work-based learning (WBL) and transition skills.

# Agenda

- 2:00-2:10** *Welcome & Icebreaker*
- 2:10-2:15** *Intro to TKU*
- 2:15 -2:30** *Community Building & Activity*
- 2:30 -2:50** *How Can SEL Support Work-Readiness?*
- 2:50-3:00** *Q&A & Wrap-up*

# Who are we?

*Tech Kids Unlimited (TKU) uses technology tools, computer science thinking, and social-emotional learning to ignite unlimited futures for **neurodiverse students**.*

*Students who learn and think differently explore the creative power of tech, practice work readiness skills, and build confidence through virtual and in-person programs in a fun and supportive community.*



**What is  
community  
building?**

# Examples of Community Building Opportunities:

- *Opportunities for social interactions*
- *Collaborative projects*
- *Mentorship*
- *Clubs or groups for specific interests*
- *Project showcases*
- *Partnerships*
- *Leadership opportunities*
- *Themed events & parties*
- *Volunteering*

**POLAR EXPRESS**  
**Winter Tech**  
**Social**

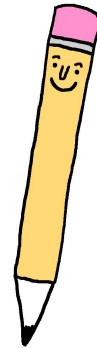
**TECH KIDS UNLIMITED**  
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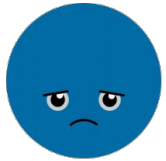
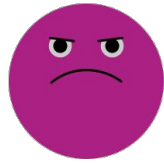
Friday,  
December 13  
4:00 – 6:30pm  
Downtown Brooklyn

RSVP at [TechKidsUnlimited.org](https://www.TechKidsUnlimited.org)

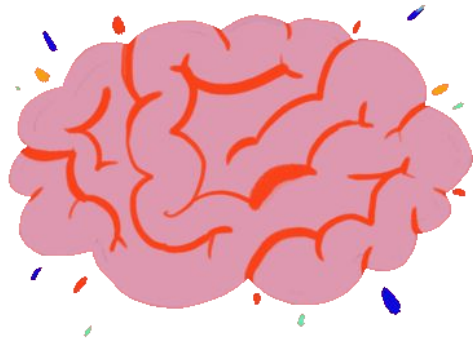
**What are the benefits of a supportive  
community for practicing  
independence and self-advocacy?**

**Let's do a community building  
drawing exercise!**





**In order to build strong communities, students need Social Emotional Learning.**



# **What is Social Emotional Learning (SEL)?**

# What is SEL?

*SEL is an evidence-based framework that helps people develop skills to manage their emotions, build relationships, and make responsible decisions.*

# What is SEL?



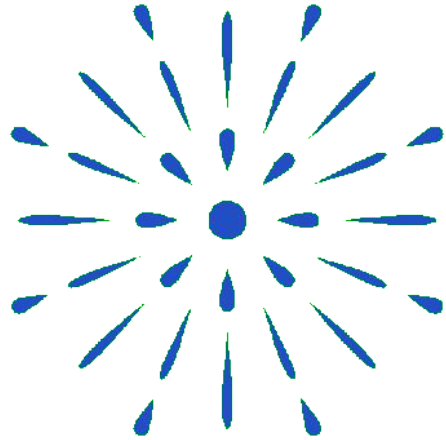
# Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

SEL can help people succeed in school, work, and life.

## Here are some ways SEL improves students' lives

- Building empathy & understanding
- Promoting emotional awareness and self-expression
- Enhancing self-management and self-regulation skills
- Developing stronger relationship and communication skills
- Fostering a sense of belonging and community
- Supporting self-advocacy and autonomy
- Encouraging a growth mindset
- Providing tools for conflict resolution
- Reduce stress and improve overall mental health

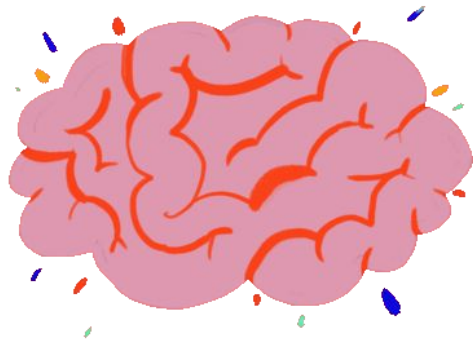




**New Year's Resolutions are a great way for students' to flex their SEL skills and practice goal setting and having a growth mindset.**

Let's try setting some achievable goals ourselves.

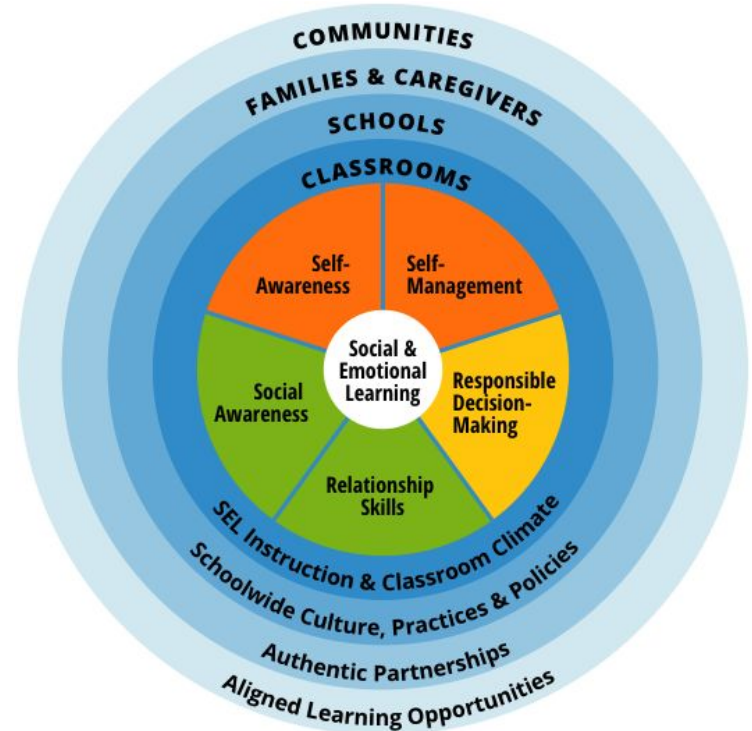
*What is a goal that you have for 2025, and what might be a smaller first step you can take to achieve that goal?*



**How can SEL support  
work-readiness?**

# 5 Core Competencies

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision Making



# Self Awareness

Self-awareness plays a critical role in building work readiness skills by **helping individuals understand their strengths, weaknesses, emotions, and behaviors.**

Here's how self-awareness contributes to work readiness:

- Identifying Strengths & Weaknesses
- Enhancing Communication Skills
- Emotional Regulation
- Supporting Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Self-Advocacy Skills
- Boost Self-Confidence

# Social Awareness

Having an understanding of social dynamics and cultural norms enables individuals to **build relationships, collaborate effectively, and contribute positively to workplace environments.**

Here's how social awareness contributes to work readiness:

- Enhances Empathy
- Strengthens Interpersonal Relationships
- Improves Conflict Resolution
- Supports Effective Communication
- Encourages Leadership Skills
- Builds Resilience

# Relationship Skills

Having strong relationship skills enables individuals to establish and **maintain meaningful connections, work collaboratively, and navigate professional interactions effectively.**

Here's how relationship skills contribute to work readiness:

- Builds Trust and Rapport
- Enhances Collaboration
- Improves Conflict Resolution
- Encourages Mentorship and Networking
- Promotes Team Morale and Motivation

# Responsible Decision Making

Having strong responsible decision-making skills enables individuals to **evaluate situations, consider potential consequences, and make thoughtful choices** that align with personal and organizational goals.

Here's how responsible decision-making contributes to work readiness:

- Improves Problem-Solving Abilities
- Promotes Ethical Decision-Making
- Enhances Accountability
- Supports Goal Achievement
- Minimizes Workplace Risks
- Encourages Adaptability

# Self Management

Having strong self-management skills enables individuals to **regulate their emotions, set and achieve goals, and maintain focus and productivity** in the workplace.

Here's how self-management contributes to work readiness:

- Enhances Time Management
- Strengthens Emotional Regulation
- Promotes Goal Setting and Achievement
- Builds Self-Discipline
- Encourages Stress Management

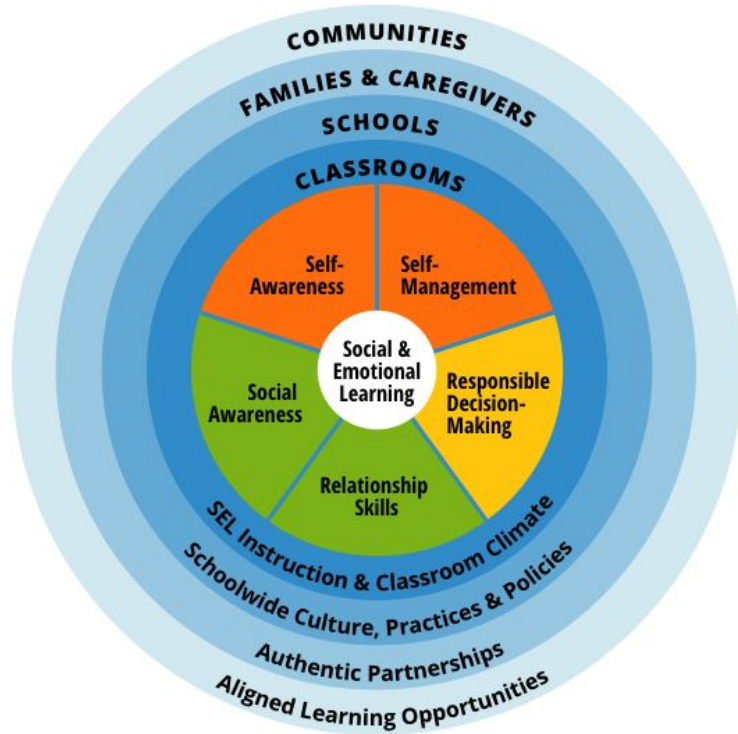
**SEL Skills are foundational to  
workplace success & lifelong  
independence.**

# Tips for building SEL

Communities, Family's & Caregivers, Schools, & Classrooms should all help support young people develop their SEL skills.

Some strategies:

- Setting collaborative goals together
- Model how you're building SEL skills
- Help students tracking progress toward individual goals
- Provide opportunities for students to share their ideas
- Analyzing challenging moments from a 'growth mindset'
- Help them find community networks where they can feel a sense of belonging



What can you do to improve students' SEL skills?



# Questions?

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