

## How to Teach Your Child Social Skills

Most people realise that being successful in life personally and professionally requires social skills. Think about the successful people you know, they are generally self aware and know how to understand and work effectively with others. Social skills are required to succeed in friendships, school life, community life and eventually working life.

Recently experts have been telling us that our children's social skills are declining due to the growing role of technology in our children's lives and the corresponding reduction in their social interactions.

So how do we as parents teach our children the social skills they need to prepare them for life? Here are 4 tips to get you started.

1. Children learn by what they see you do, not what you say they should do. Be a model of good social skills for your child. Use every chance you can to show how you try hard to understand others, for example. You could do that by demonstrating how you think about another person's feelings, how you try to "step into their shoes" to better understand how the world looks from their perspective, how you think carefully about how you say something to someone and try to anticipate how they will "hear" it first, before you say it.
2. Explain to your child, as you demonstrate these skills, how and why you are doing it. Ask them how they could do it better.
3. When your child mentions a disagreement with another child, take the time to discuss it together. Take the "side" of the other child and help your child see the different perspectives and the possible reasons why the other child acted as they did. Encourage your child to tell you what they would like to say to the other child, discuss with them how you would feel if you heard that. When your child is ready, encourage them to go back and discuss the matter with the other child and try to resolve it themselves.
4. Praise your child highly when they get it right. Children learn much more effectively from praise and recognition, in contrast to punishment and reproach.

If you would like more opportunities for your child to learn social skills, and have opportunities to play and communicate with other children, then look into MindLab, an education programme that teaches children thinking and social skills through playing exciting board games from around the world.

Contact MindLab to find out about local classes, or for information about bringing this exciting educational programme to your area.

Ravi Melwani  
Managing Director, MindLab Indonesia  
[www.mindlabindonesia.com](http://www.mindlabindonesia.com)

For more information or photos please contact:

Ravi at 0217258151, [melwani@mindlabindonesia.com](mailto:melwani@mindlabindonesia.com) or

Haseena at 0217258151, [h.melwani@mindlabindonesia.com](mailto:h.melwani@mindlabindonesia.com)

**Note to Editors:**

*Over 1,000,000 students in 15 countries internationally have benefited from the MindLab programme. MindLab is a "green field" business opportunity in Indonesia.*

*MindLab franchisees run a highly successful after-school programme which uses board games from around the world to develop children's thinking, problem-solving and interpersonal skills.*

*The focus is to have fun yet MindLab also helps children to build better personal relationships, improve scholastically, and relate and cooperate with others. MindLab creates a positive outcome for parents, teachers, schools and kids alike.*

*The MindLab after school programme gives franchisees the opportunity to make a real difference to children's development, their families and the wider community.*

*For just the price of a family car, and working part-time, franchisees can expect to make at least RP 400,000,000 to RP 600,000,000 per year.*

*MindLab also provides a like-minded community to support and guide franchisees as they grow their business, and has a proven model to minimise the risk and fear of starting a new business.*