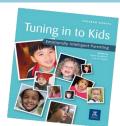
The influence of early childhood teachers on children's emotional development: Tuning in to Kids in the preschools



International Symposium on Theory and **Practice of Early Child Education and Early Intervention**

15th April, 2023





Tuning in to Kids

Overview of presentation

- What is TIK?
- Theoretical background
- TIK Program content
- Research evaluation
 - Overview of studies
 - Early years trials
- Other uses of TIK
- Workshop exercises





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What is Tuning in to Kids?





Tuning in to Kids (TIK) is an evidence- based program that helps parents, carers and teachers assist children in learning about emotions while building a close and supportive relationship.

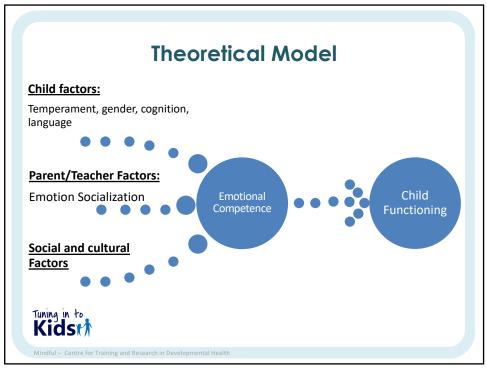
Evidence has been established over 20 + years, across cultures and different countries, with 15 years of dissemination.

Tuning in to Kidski

http://www.cebc4cw.org/program/tuning-in-to-kids-tik/detailed

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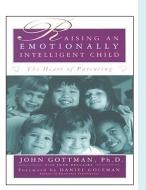


Emotion socialization

- How parents/teachers respond to children's emotions shapes children's emotional competence and behaviour
- Depends on parent/teacher's understanding and regulation of emotions
- Parenting styles (Gottman et al., 1996)
 - emotion dismissing
 - emotion coaching
- Emotion coaching communicates to children they are valued and respected
- · Builds connection and closeness



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Research Evidence

- Children who are emotion coached are more likely to:
 - Cope better with emotional challenges/transitions
 - Have better cognitive abilities and academic functioning
 - Have stronger social skills
 - Have fewer externalising and internalising problems
 - Have fewer physical illnesses

Eisenberg et al., 1998;2020; Havighurst et al 2010, 2013; 2015; Johnson et al., 2017; Katz & Maliken, 2013

- The greatest benefit are for children with higher levels of:
 - Negative reactivity
 - Externalising behaviour (particularly at a young age)
 - Internalising behaviour

Denham et al, 2000; Duncombe et al 2012; Kehoe et al 2020

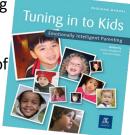


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What is Tuning in to Kids (TIK)?

- Program for parents/carers/teachers
- Manualised delivery in group/1:1/online
- 6-10 weekly sessions or whole day training
- Targets emotion socialization:
 - Emotion awareness/regulation
 - Meta-emotion philosophy and family of origin: role in automatic reactions to emotions when parenting
 - Emotion Coaching skills
- Changes in parents/teachers facilitate children's emotional competence that has beneficial outcomes for child, parents, wider system



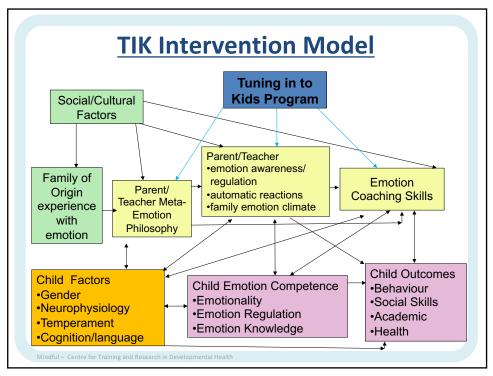


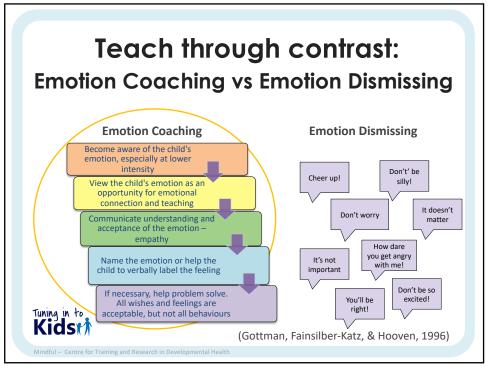


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vs Emotion Dismissing vs Emotion Coaching DVD demonstration



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Emotions underlie behaviour



Surface behaviours:

- Shouting, yelling, tantrums
- Withdrawal
- Distress and crying

Underlying emotions:

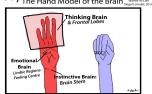
- Sad, lonely, hurt
- Worried, scared
- Jealous
- Frustrated, irritated

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The hand model and emotion coaching

Is the lid down?

- All 5 steps of emotion coaching can be used:
 - Notice
 - Connect
 - Empathise
 - Name emotions
 - Problem solve/limit set (if needed) The Hand Model of the Brain



Is the lid flipped?

- Use less talk zip it up!
- Empathy statements
- Connect, physically or be close
- State limits but do not repeat
- Manage your own emotions – build in a pause
- Use 5 steps of emotion coaching when you and your child are calm

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD-lfP1FBFk

Dan Siegel talking about the hand model

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Empathy

- Empathy:
 - Perspective taking
 - Listen without judgement
 - Connect with this feeling
 - Communicate understanding
- Parents/teachers learn to step into the child's shoes
- Use the Emotion Detective
- Empathy is both verbal and non-verbal



Bréne Brown on 'What is empathy?'

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Empathy Statements



- •You love playing with that toy
 - You're having such fun!
- •Wow that makes me happy too!
 - •Oh, dear...
 - •That really hurts!
 - That's scary
 - •Yikes!!
 - Oh, how sad
 - You couldn't find me!
 - •Oh, you're really upset!
 - •You want one too!
 - •It's tricky!
- •I'd be angry too if I got left out
 - •Gosh, how annoying!
 - •That'd make me mad too!
 - •I know. It's so hard to wait!
- •Yes, it's difficult to make that work.

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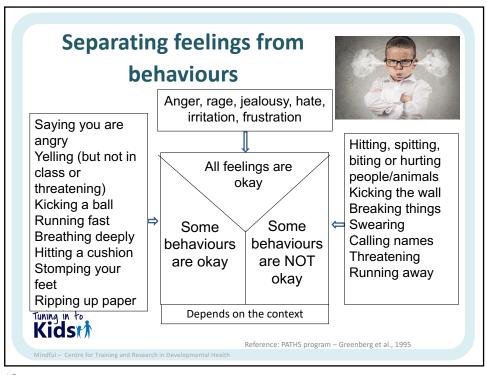
Building an Emotion Vocabulary

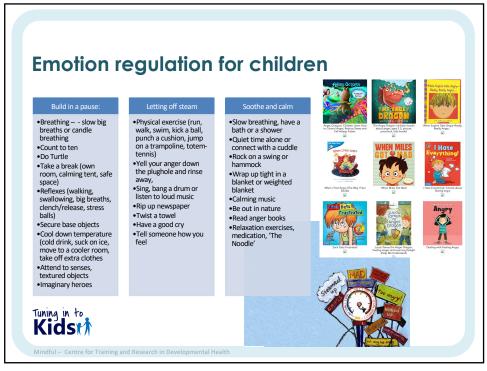
- From early in development it is helpful for parents to name emotions with children
- Naming emotions shifts an experience from the emotional brain to the cognitive brain
- Gives children distance from felt experience
- Helps children internalise parents' words
- Assists with emotion regulation





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Emotion Regulation for Parents and Teachers



When parents/teachers have strong emotions:

- Bottom-up strategies Build in a pause:
 - Count to 10
 - Breathe slowly for 10 breaths
 - Drink cold water/suck on ice
 - Move out of the situation
 - Focus on the senses (i.e., hold a necklace, keys etc)
- Engage in activities to calm or let off steam

Emotional self-care helps adults be able to use emotion coaching

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Tuning in to Kids Evidence





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TIK Evidence base



- Over 20 years of evidence
- Many RCT's with parents/carers/teachers; in community and clinical samples
- Tuning in to Teens
- · Tuning in to Toddlers
- Dads TIK
- TIK-Kindergarten
- Trauma-focused TIK
- Chronic illness
- Online TIKOL
- Whole School Approach



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Research Evidence

Toddlers - Tuning in to Toddlers (TOTS)

- Pilot study
- RCT efficacy trial
- TOTS Norwegian clinical trial

Preschool - Tuning in to Kids (TIK)

- Pilot, RCT efficacy and effectiveness trials •
- · RCT clinical efficacy trial
- Case studies with anxious children
- Dads TIK pilot and RCT efficacy trial
- Pilot with child care workers
- Norwegian Pilot plus RCT effectiveness
- German pilot
- Swiss RCT
- Iranian RCT pilot
- Turkish RCT pilot
- Chilean pilot
- Hong Kong RCT effectiveness
- TIK Kindergarten pilot studies
- TIK Norwegian Kindergarten RCT
- TIK Together both parents

School aged - Tuning in to Kids (TIK)

- Effectiveness with conduct problems RCT
- Comparison of TIK &Triple P for conduct problem children – RCT
- · Children with chronic illness -RCT
- Trauma-focused pilot study
- The BIG TIK: Comparison of online, 1:1, group for children with behaviour problems
- Rochester, NY RCT clinical trial FASD
- TIK in Norwegian schools

Tuning in to Teens (TINT)

- Pilot and 2 RCT's for Efficacy
- · TINT Qualitative study
- · New Jersey adoption/kinship carers
- TIK- Brains
- Whole School Approach (Australia, USA, NZ)
- · Residential Care pilot study
- German RCT cf with a behavioural program
- NZ CAMHS RCT

Main Findings - TIK Research

Parents:

- Reduced emotion dismissive parenting
- Increased empathy and emotion coaching
- Improved emotion awareness and regulation in parents

Children:

- Improved emotion knowledge
- Reduced behaviour problems
- Reduced internalising problems
- Improved social functioning
- TOTS reduced stress cortisol

Family:

- Increased connection
- Other parent reduced dismissiveness, improved mental health
- Wider use of skills in family/community



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Cultural Adaptations of TIK

- Australia, NZ, USA, Canada, UK, Hong Kong, China, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Iran, Turkey, Russia, Chile, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand with translations in 15+ languages
- Individualistic and collectivistic cultures using TIK
- · Adaptation addresses cultural differences in:
 - Changes to methods of delivery, e.g., role plays
 - Emotional expression varies as does emotion language
 - Emotional reactiveness varies
 - Responses to anger
- Family of origin both how they respond and how different this approach is to FOO

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The intervention focus

- Teachers support/guide children to understand/manage emotions: emotional competence (Denham et al., 2017)
- Teachers with emotion regulation difficulties are less supportive of children's emotional competence and more likely to be emotionally dismissive (Jennings & Greenberg, 2009; Montgomery & Rupp, 2005)
- Meta-analyses: SEL programs in kindergarten have small to medium effect sizes on children's social, emotional and behavioral functioning (e.g., Strong Start: Kramer et al., 2010; First Friends: Randall, 2003)
- Emotion coaching in schools (Rose et al., 2015) but not kindergarten



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Rationale for Norwegian Kindergarten Trial

- In Norway 85.4% of 1- and 2-year-olds and 97.3% of 3- to 5-year-olds attended kindergartens
- Kindergarten is a place where many emotions are experienced by children
- An opportunity for learning emotional competence and delivery of prevention
- But minimal training for kindergarten teachers in responding to children's emotions







Key Components of the Program

- Teachers learn emotion coaching and how to tune in to children's emotions
- Reflection and labelling of emotions
- Non-verbal responses to emotions
- Empathy and validation
- 'Sitting with' emotions
- Links to neurophysiology and brain development
- Impact of emotion dismissiveness/criticism
- Family of origin reactions
- Teacher emotion awareness, regulation and self-care
- · Problem solving
- Discipline versus punishment



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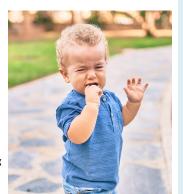
Non-verbal ways of emotion coaching

- Young children often don't need words to emotion coach
- Sometimes we need to 'sit with' their emotions
- Use non-verbal ways of supporting emotions by not talking when they are experiencing strong emotions and have 'flipped their lid'
- Consider how you can zip up your mouth and sit on your hands
- Physical comfort is often important in helping them to calm
- Touch, stroking and holding can be important ways to help a child to calm and feel safe and secure
- Remain calm, breathe slowly, be present and accepting
- Helps the child 'move through' the emotion
- Role of attachment is to help child with 'down regulation'

See if you can 'sit with emotions' rather than always trying to solve them.



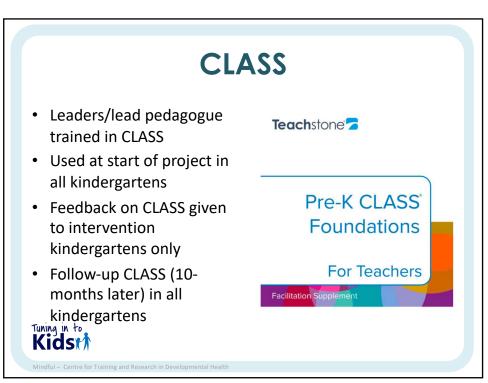
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(Pianta et al., 2008; La Paro et al., 2012)

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Intervention Delivery

- CLASS observation training for resource person
- TIK 2-day training for leader and resource person
- CLASS 1-day training all employees
- TIK 1-day training for all employees
- Supervision average 8 sessions
- TIK Booster for leader and resource person



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Supervision with teachers

- · Start with reflection on the week
- Use of the emotion coaching diary
- What worked? What challenges have they had in using emotion coaching?
- Do a role play comparing emotion dismissing and emotion coaching
- Guide teachers balance encouragement and praise with correction and shaping their skills
- Focus on slowing down/pausing, empathy and reflection, avoid moving to problem solving or giving advice too fast



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Measures

Baseline Aug 2019; follow-up June 2020 Teacher report

 Coping with Toddlers Negative Emotion Scale – Teacher Version (CTNES-T: Spinrad et al., 2007)

Observation of kindergarten classes

 The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS: Pianta et al., 2009)

Parent report of children's functioning

 Brief Problem Monitor (BPM: Achenbach et al., 2011)

Sample

Baseline data from:

- 48 leaders (98% total)
- 498 teachers (50% total)
- 201 CLASS observations (100% total)
- 777 parents (22% total)

Follow-up data from:

- 100% leaders
- 68% teachers
- 98% CLASS
- 55% parents



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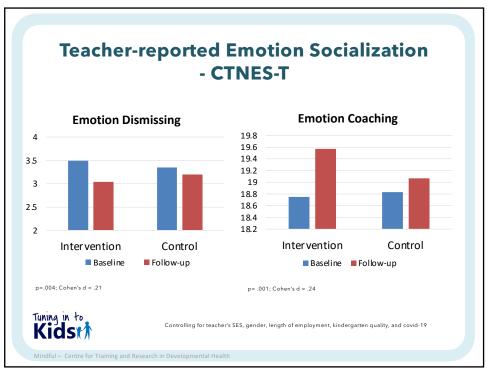
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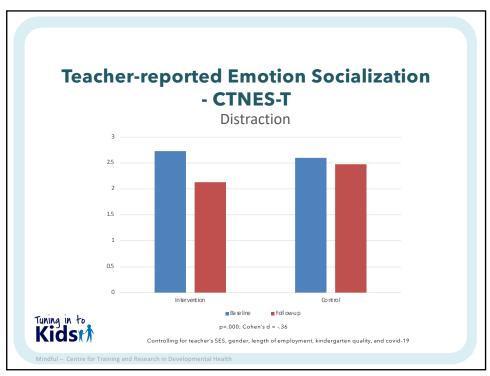
Analyses

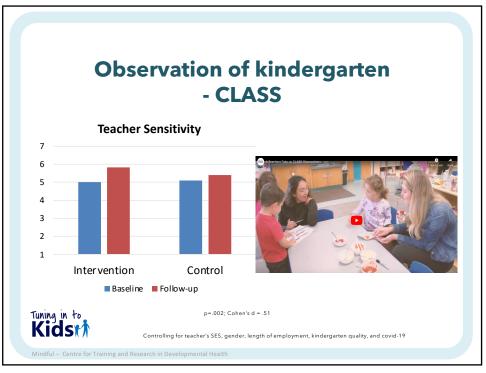
- · Multilevel mixed models analyses
- · Examined time by group interactions
- Included the clustering effect of kindergarten and kindergarten class
- Controlling for teacher SES, teacher gender, length of employment, kindergarten quality, and covid-19
- Effect sizes using Cohen's d .20 = small, .50 = medium, and greater than .80, = large (Cohen, 1988).

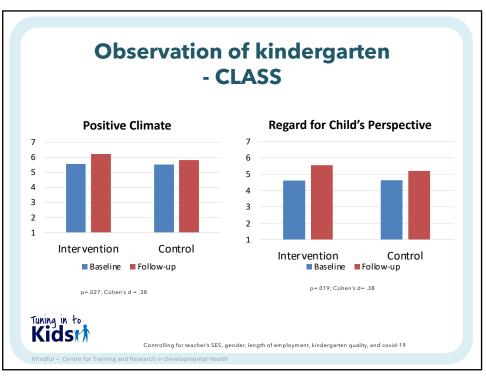


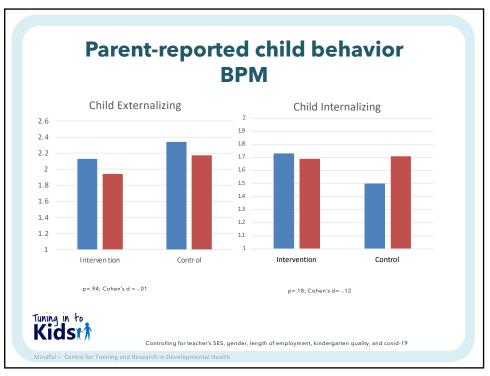
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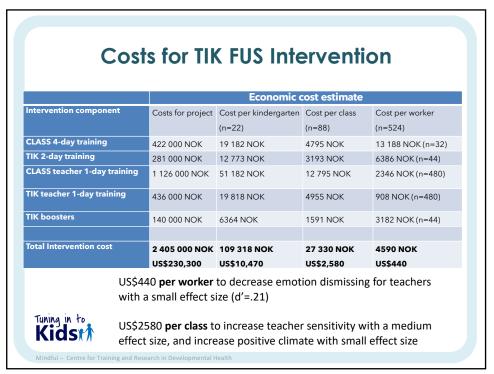












Conclusions

- · Teachers are open to learning emotion coaching
- Teachers reduced dismissiveness and distraction; increased emotion coaching
- CLASS observations: greater teacher sensitivity, regard for the student's perspective, positive climate
- Importance of implementation support teachers are less likely to use emotion coaching without practice
- Costs were minimal for increasing teacher's emotion coaching and CLASS sensitivity
- What were the key components of the intervention? Leader support; CLASS; TIK; Supervision?
- Limitations: CLASS a measure plus part of intervention, insufficient time with teachers (supervision varied from 2 – 16 sessions), COVID-19, low response from parents.
- Booster sessions for teachers; parent seminars



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Tuning in to Kids OnLine (TIKOL)

- 10 x modules: Average watching time 8 weeks
- Talk to camera, role plays, parent's experiences of TIK, worksheets and exercises
- Engagement: Support calls + Modules
- N = 168 (89 TIKOL; 79 Control)
- Targeted behaviour problems (BP)
- Engagement predicted ↓BP
- · Outcomes:
 - — ↓emotion dismissing (d=.64)
 - \uparrow empathy (d=.21), emotion coaching (d=.21)
 - ↓child behaviour problems (d=.54), anxiety (d=.37)
- https://tuningintokids.org.au/parents/tikol-information/



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WORKSHOP EXERCISES



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Exercise 1: Emotion Coaching Scripts (2 per break-out room – 5-7 minutes)

Goal: This exercise aims to help teachers see the difference between emotion dismissing and emotion coaching.

In pairs go through the 1 or 2 scripted role plays. Try to act out the roles as much as possible.

One person plays the child; one the teacher

- 1. Start by reading the dismissive script
- 2. Then share how it felt to be the child and the teacher
- 3. Next read the emotion coaching script
- 4. Share how it felt to be the child and the teacher

Feedback and discussion



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Exercise 2: Non-verbal Emotion Coaching (2 per break-out room – 5-7 minutes)

Goal: This exercise aims to help teachers to use non-verbal ways of emotion coaching

- Introduce yourselves.
- Each person think about a recent emotional experience they have had (sad, angry, scared, jealous, guilty etc).
- Each take turns. One person thinks of their experience and shows as much of the feeling without words.
- The other person is to try to emotion coach without words. Use your facial expression, body movements, tone of voice, posture, or sounds to mirror the emotion.
- When finished discuss what it felt like to be emotion coached without words. What was it like to be the emotion coach? **Kidst**

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