



The Dibble Institute®

Resources for Teaching Relationship Skills
to Teens and Young Adults

Alabama Cooperative Extension Services Case Study

Organization:	Alabama Cooperative Extension Services
Program Name:	Emerging Relationships
Funding:	Family and Child Development budget from Cooperative Extension
What problem is being solved?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improving school climate and relationships between students and schools.2. Schools want classrooms to be places where youth get along better by building better relationships. They seek school-wide relationship improvements.
Curricula Used:	Emerging Relationships (ER)
Curricula Benefits:	ER contains the building blocks for young relationships. ER is a great pre-cursor for Relationship Smarts PLUS
Target Audience:	6 th grade students
Audience Demographics:	Low income, disadvantaged community 66% qualify for free or reduced lunch.
Class Size:	15 – 25 students each.
Program Setting:	All 6 th grade students in a school during either social studies classes or advisory periods.
Location of Instruction:	Public Schools
Length of Instruction (# of Sessions and hours per session):	Six sessions, 1 hour each

Instructor:	Extension Agent
Participants Journals:	Students receive and use journals to enhance lessons.
Participant Engagement:	Students are open and talk during the session activities. Sometimes they want to talk more, after class to continue the discussion or to share what they've learned.
Observable Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds the students' self-esteem. • Assists with developing positive self-image. • Students demonstrate confidence to share in the classes. <p>Instructor works individually with special ed students or students who have been bullied. This program validates them and improves their self-worth.</p>
Challenges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School schedules can vary and classroom interruptions can impede on instruction time, cut activities or discussions short. • Surveys take up scheduled time. A day may need to be added to program implementation to complete surveys.
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep- Prep -Prep materials before you begin to instruct! • Laminating activity cards – keeps them fresh for reuse! • Establish relationship with school counselors for subject matter and to be available if a student needs additional services. • Promote ER by sharing with the counselor the Health National Standards that ER meets. (<i>The crosswalk is at https://dibbleinstitute.org/our-programs/emerging-relationships</i>) • Avoid testing months and holidays for program implementation. • Be flexible.