Practice Implementation Checklist: Social Emotional Teaching Strategies

Friendship Skills:
- Encourage children to work together
- Make positive and specific comments about children who are working together, helping each other, etc.
- Use a variety of strategies to specifically teach friendship skills (e.g., sharing, turn taking, helping others)
- Provide children with planned opportunities to practice friendship skills
- Model appropriate friendship skills in interactions with children and other adults

Emotional Literacy:
- Model and label your own emotions and appropriate ways to express emotions
- Use a variety of strategies to teach children about emotion words
- Use a variety of strategies to teach children how to recognize emotions in themselves and others
- Validate children’s emotions by labeling them and allowing them to talk about how they feel
- Provide children with strategies to use to calm down when they are angry
- Individualize instruction to meet the developmental needs of all your children

Problem Solving Strategies:
- Specifically teach the steps to solving problems
- Engage children in generating solutions to common classroom challenges
- Post visual reminders about the problem solving steps
- Recognize and give specific feedback to those children who have been “good problem solvers”
- Help children reflect on their own problem solving skills
- Individualized instruction on problem solving to meet different developmental needs