

## Nurturing Emotional Intelligence in Children: A Foundation for Lifelong Success

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### Abstract

The present study aimed to predict various forms of bullying based on moral disengagement and moral identity subscales among elementary school students. For this purpose, 450 elementary school students, consisting of 230 boys and 220 girls, were selected using cluster sampling and simple random sampling methods from the entire population of elementary school students. Participants completed three questionnaires: bullying, moral disengagement and moral identity. The data were analyzed using multivariate regression analysis with SPSS software. The results indicated that both moral disengagement and moral identity subscales significantly predicted bullying among students with ADHD ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Consequently, it can be inferred that, in line with the concept of moral agency, investigations into student bullying should consider the mechanisms of moral disengagement and moral identity. Specifically, bullying was positively associated with moral disengagement and negatively associated with moral identity.

**Keywords:** Child behaviour; EI; Child psychology

### Introduction

At its core, emotional intelligence encompasses a spectrum of skills, including self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and social skills. Children with high EI exhibit a keen awareness of their emotions, can effectively regulate their responses to various situations, demonstrate empathy towards others, and excel in building and maintaining meaningful relationships [1-3].

### Methodology

#### The significance of emotional intelligence in childhood

The formative years of childhood serve as a crucial period for the development of emotional intelligence. Research suggests that children with strong EI are better equipped to handle stress, communicate effectively, and exhibit pro-social behaviors. Moreover, high EI in childhood is linked to academic success, positive mental health outcomes, and increased resilience in the face of adversity.

#### Encourage emotional expression

Create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable expressing their emotions. Validate their feelings and help them articulate their experiences through open-ended questions and active listening.

#### Teach emotion regulation techniques

Equip children with practical strategies for managing their emotions, such as deep breathing exercises, mindfulness practices, and positive self-talk. Model healthy coping mechanisms and provide guidance on navigating challenging situations [4-6].

#### Foster empathy and perspective-taking

Engage children in activities that promote empathy and perspective-taking, such as storytelling, role-playing, and volunteer work. Encourage them to consider the feelings and perspectives of others, fostering a sense of compassion and understanding.

#### Cultivate social skills

Provide opportunities for children to develop their social skills

through cooperative play, group activities, and collaborative projects. Teach them the importance of effective communication, active listening, and conflict resolution in building positive relationships.

#### Model emotional intelligence

Serve as a role model for emotional intelligence by regulating your own emotions, demonstrating empathy towards others, and communicating openly about feelings. Your actions and responses serve as powerful examples for children to emulate [7-9].

#### The role of parents and educators

Parents and educators play pivotal roles in nurturing emotional intelligence in children. By fostering a supportive and nurturing environment, setting clear expectations, and providing guidance and encouragement, they lay the foundation for healthy emotional development. Collaboration between home and school environments further reinforces the importance of EI and facilitates its integration into various aspects of a child's life [10].

### Conclusion

In conclusion, emotional intelligence serves as a cornerstone of a child's development, influencing their relationships, academic success, and overall well-being. By prioritizing the cultivation of EI in childhood through practical strategies and supportive environments, we empower children to navigate life's challenges with resilience, empathy, and confidence. Together, let us champion the importance of emotional intelligence and equip the next generation with the skills they need to thrive emotionally and socially.

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