TOOLBOX PROJECT™ KEY PRINCIPLES

Innate Capacity
Belief in a child's innate capacity to find solutions is imperative to their success (e.g., "I believe in you"). TOOLBOX supports children in understanding and managing their emotional, social, and academic success by uncovering 12 human capacities (Tools) that reside within all of us.

Safe and Caring Learning Environment
Optimal learning and academic achievement happen within a safe and caring learning environment — one built on appreciation, kindness, collaboration, and trust.

Inquiry-Based Approach
An inquiry-based approach (e.g., "What three Tools can you use?") promotes a growth mindset and authentic connection and relationship — teaching children to trust their innate knowing.

Resiliency
To learn resiliency, a child needs a caring relationship with an adult (resilience factor #1), high expectation messages (e.g., "I believe in you."), and opportunities to participate and contribute in meaningful ways.[1]

Going First (Modeling)
Adults model for children how to be in the world. Our effectiveness at teaching TOOLBOX is dependent on our willingness to use the 12 Tools personally (what we call, "going first").

Common Language
The common language of TOOLBOX is a simple set of words, symbols, and metaphors that are universally understood and easily shared between children and adults. Having a common language assists children's growth and development, communication, and understanding.

Practice, Practice, Practice
Through practice, we build skills that help us become resourceful, resilient, and more confident. Regularly inviting use of the Tools allows children to acquire and maintain proficiency and self-mastery.

Imagination
Use of imagination is fundamental for academic achievement and success in life. To see ourselves and others in new ways creates new possibilities.

Emotional Intelligence
Feelings and emotions give us crucial information. Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is the intelligence of our emotions. When we pay attention to our emotions, we learn from our body wisdom.

Integrated Approach
Children and educators integrate the use of each Tool across multiple contexts (e.g., classroom, playground, family, friends, academics, behavior management, and relationship with self).

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[1]Benard, B. *Resiliency: What We Have Learned*

There is a simple path to kindness.

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TOOLBOX PROJECT™
TOOLS FOR LEARNING ▾ TOOLS FOR LIFE

The 12 Tools

Tools for Learning • Tools for Life

Breathing Tool
I calm myself and check-in.

Quiet/Safe Place Tool
I remember my quiet/safe place.

Listening Tool
I listen with my ears, eyes, and heart.

Empathy Tool
I care for others. I care for myself.
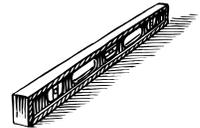
Personal Space Tool
I have a right to my space and so do you.

Using Our Words Tool
I use the "right" words in the "right" way.

Garbage Can Tool
I let the little things go.

Taking Time Tool
I take time-in and time-away.
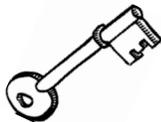
Please & Thank You Tool
I treat others with kindness and appreciation.

Apology & Forgiveness Tool
I admit my mistakes and work to forgive yours.

Patience Tool
I am strong enough to wait.

Courage Tool
I have the courage to do the "right" thing.