

AYTEF HELLO INSIGHT SURVEY RESULTS

AYTEF programs strive to help young people gain 21st-century skills and develop social and emotional capacities that correlate with long-term gains in high school completion, college/career readiness, and increased life-long thriving. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. There is growing evidence showing that SEL qualities rival academic or technical skills in their ability to predict employment and earnings, among other outcomes. While the demand for such skills has increased over the past 20 years, many employers around the world have reported that job candidates lack the soft skills needed to fill available positions.

In the face of current societal economic, environmental, and social challenges, the promotion of these non-academic skills is seen as more critical than ever before with business and political leaders urging schools to pay more attention to equipping students with soft skills such as a positive identity, social skills, self-management, social capital, academic self-efficacy, and a sense of contribution – often referred to as SEL or “21st Century Skills” (CASEL, 2022). To meet these needs, AYTEF programs integrate essential research-based practices that have been shown to promote these types of outcomes for young people. In addition, these skills are regularly assessed to assure that each young person is on a pathway toward success.

To accomplish this, AYTEF uses an online learning and evaluation platform – Hello Insight- to deploy scientifically validated tools and analytics that have been tested and statistically validated through surveying more than 200,000 young people, in over 2,000 programs, in over 750 organizations nation-wide. This field standard platform allows AYTEF to benchmark young people’s outcome growth against other young people with similar attributes, assuring that the growth they see is meaningful and significant.

During GameSetMatch summer camp in June 2022, AYTEF conducted a check-in survey with 12 of our current participants. These participants have been in AYTEF tennis programming for several months if not longer. We conducted two different surveys - one for kids ages 5-8 and another for kids ages 8-11. Below are the significant finds of our surveys. Scores over 70% reflect a successful implementation of each SEL support based on the Hello Insight research and national survey results.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION

AYTEF attained a 100% program satisfaction rate from our participants. Satisfaction is defined as whether a young person would recommend this program to a friend. Research shows that when young people are satisfied with a program, they are more likely to be engaged and develop SEL experiences.

ENGAGE AUTHENTICALLY

AYTEF received an average score of 85% for our ability to engage authentically.

Engage Authentically is a young person's experience with an adult who takes the time to get to know them by listening and understanding who they are — their cultural and lived experiences, their interests, and their passions. This metric examines how well we call the children by name, carve out time to listen to them and show them kindness, remind them to try hard and do their best, and learn about their lives outside of the program. Engaging authentically involves placing young people's personal stories at the center of the program's work and ensuring that they feel valued, heard, and cared for by adults. This is a Foundational Experience for young people or one that lays the groundwork for all of the others in the Hello Insight Logic Model. Building these types of relationships have been shown to increase positive youth development and thriving (Larson, R. & Dawes, N. 2015, Search Institute, 2022).

PROMOTE PEER BONDS

AYTEF received an average score of 75% for our ability to promote peer bonds. A young person's experience with an adult who helps them work with peers in teams and groups, creating a safe space to learn with and from one another, exploring similarities and differences, and developing deep bonds and relationships. Promoting peer bonds involves supporting young people to share and value one another's unique perspectives, experiences, strengths, and ideas. This is a Foundational Experience for young people, bolstering all other Hello Insight PYD practices. Positive peer engagement increases self-confidence and life skills; academic motivation; and leadership skills and disposition (Search Institute, 2020). This is a Foundational Experience for young people, bolstering all of the other PYD practices and promoting the greatest positive impact on SEL growth across all types of young people. AYTEF scored close to 100% for our ability to create a sense of team/group identity, including opportunities for young people to engage with people who are different from themselves, and creating safe spaces for young people to work and learn from. Our lowest average score was in the category of whether we successfully create opportunities for young people to work together and help one another.

EXPAND INTERESTS

AYTEF received an average score of 50% for our ability to expand interests.

Expand Interests is a young person's experience with an adult who supports them to try new things, broaden their horizons, learn about other people's cultures and perspectives, and explore their own identities. Expanding interests involves exposing young people to new ideas, experiences, and places. It has been shown to increase school engagement and highschool graduation rates; promote healthy behaviors and decrease risky behaviors; increase overall satisfaction with life (Search Institute, 2020); increase a sense of contribution and desire to give back; and promotes a healthy positive identity (Benson, P.L. 2006; Scales, P.C., et al., 2011).

While we scored in 80% for our ability to create activities that reference or include things young people enjoy, we can use improvement in the following areas:

- Encourage young people to take a risk and try something new, even when it seems difficult
- Engage young people in hands-on projects or activities
- Create opportunities for young people to try new things they have never done before

PRACTICE SOCIAL SKILLS

AYTEF received an average score of 78% for our ability to give participants a chance to practice social skills. In the areas of creating a space where children are able to listen to each other, making sure our program includes opportunities for children to engage with people who are different from themselves, or creating environments where children can regulate their own behavior, AYTEF is highly proficient. We need improvement creating opportunities for children to share materials and resources and to work together and help one another.

