



# Relationship-Based Learning in PreK:

BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE CLASSROOM  
COMMUNITY

# Agenda

1. The Research: What Matters in PreK
2. Classroom routines to establish community and make connections
3. Curricular studies to develop community and make connections
4. Share out



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
SELF  
REGULATE**

# The Buzz Word: Self-Regulation

- ▶ Self regulation:
  - ▶ Behavioral
  - ▶ Emotional
  - ▶ Cognitive
- ▶ Children from low-income families are significantly more likely to have lower self-regulation (particularly behavioral regulation) in Prek and K

# The Power of Social Relationships

- ▶ Classroom protective factors: components of an environment or relationship that guard children against risk or help them face their challenges more productively and effectively
  - ▶ Student-teacher relationship
  - ▶ Peer relationship
  - ▶ Creation of classroom community

# Putting it all together...

- ▶ We need good social relationships to learn...  
BUT
- ▶ We need good self-regulation skills to have good social relationships
- ▶ What if we use social relationships to teach self-regulation?

# Hello My Name is Vygotsky

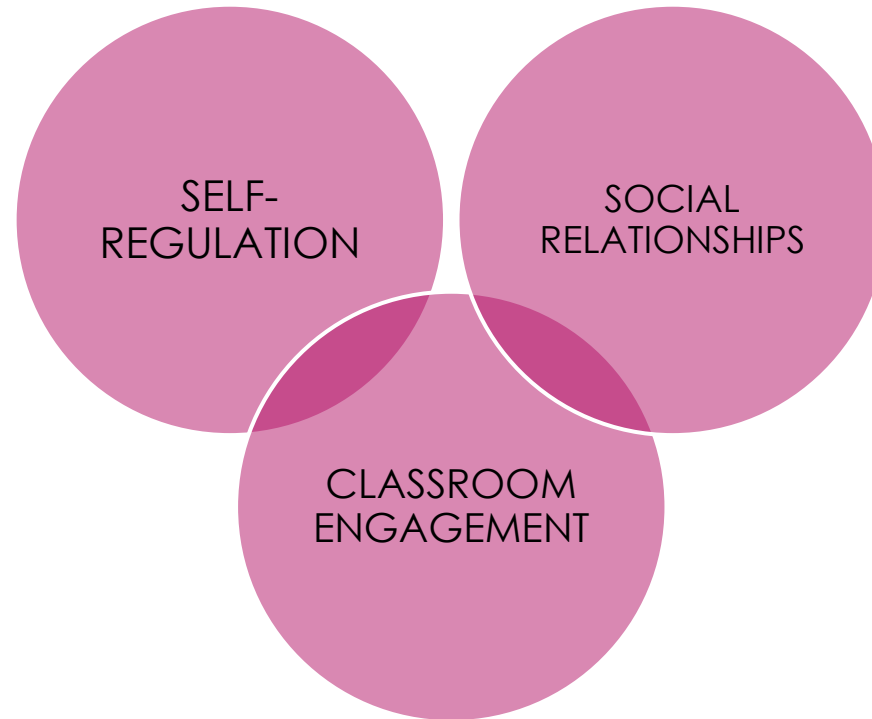
Vygotsky's developmental theory:

*Psychological processes such as self-regulation are developed through interactions with **adults, peers**, and the **learning context***

*Other-regulation* → *Self-regulation*

- ▶ A child's ability to self-regulate depends upon positive and active engagement with teachers and peers
- ▶ Interdependence and reliance on others are fundamental to the developmental of self-regulation

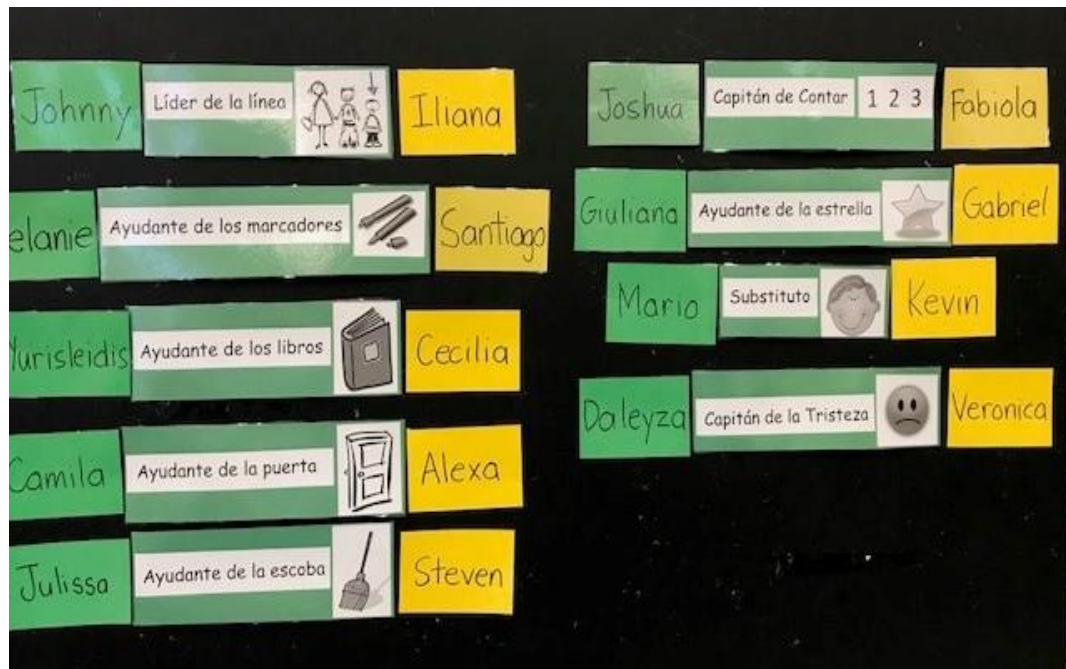
# Putting it all together...



# Classroom Routines for an Interdependent Community

- ▶ Classroom jobs
- ▶ Songs to build community
- ▶ Partner/Friendship activities
- ▶ Circle Time routines
- ▶ Social scripts

# Classroom Jobs: Are they meaningful? Do they get to be experts? Do they have to rely upon each other?



# Community-Building Songs

- ▶ **No-CD Challenge**
- ▶ Greeting / Goodbye
- ▶ Songs to develop social relationships: Al Tambor
- ▶ Songs to take risks together: Buscamos Osos, El Payaso
- ▶ Songs for self-regulation: Freeze Dance, Mis Manos
- ▶ Others?

# Friendship-building activities



# Friendship Quilt and Friendship Bracelets



# Circle Time Routines

- ▶ Attendance – greeting children who are absent
- ▶ Star of the Day
  - ▶ 3 clues
  - ▶ Class tries to guess

# Social Scripts

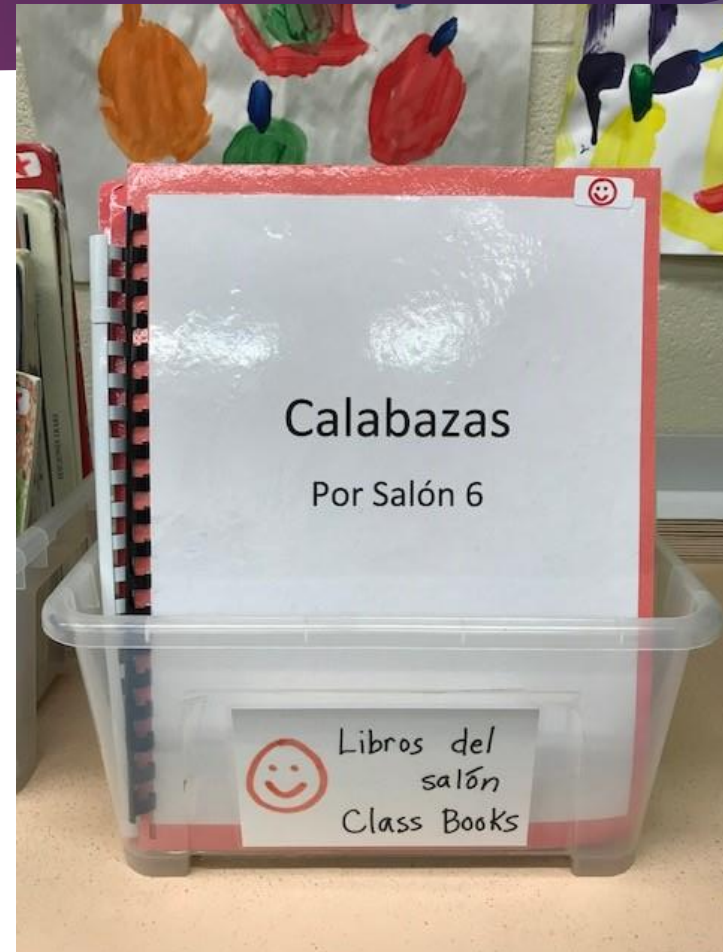
- ▶ What does it mean to “share”?
- ▶ Cultural norms
- ▶ “How many minutes do you need?”
- ▶ Self-regulation

# Curricular studies to create classroom community

- ▶ Class books and songs
- ▶ Feelings study
- ▶ Author study

# Class books

- ▶ One book /song per study
- ▶ Revisit regularly:  
Shared history!
- ▶ Beginning of the Year:  
Brown Bear class book
- ▶ Field trip books



# Class books and songs



# Feelings Study

- ▶ Identify and name feelings
- ▶ Feelings are temporary and often change
- ▶ What makes us feel \_\_\_\_?
- ▶ What can we do if we feel \_\_\_\_?
- ▶ How our actions affect others' feelings
- ▶ What can we do if someone else feels \_\_\_\_?



# The most important job: Sadness Captain

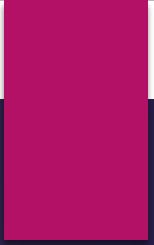


# Author Study

- ▶ Shared “ownership” that carries into following year(s)
- ▶ Focus depends on author
  - ▶ Mo Willems – characters
  - ▶ Eric Carle – illustration style, life cycles
  - ▶ Leo Lionni – illustration style, friendship themes

# Art in the style of...





What else are you doing  
to create classroom  
community? Let's share!

# Sources

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