Research

What is Social Competence?
“Socially competent young children are those who engage in satisfying interactions and activities with adults and peers and through such interactions further their own competence” (L.G. Katz & D.E. McClellan. 1997.)

Early Years Matter
Young children form strong attachments with parents and others who care for them consistently. The bonds with their first early childhood teachers predict the quality of relationship they will have with future teachers (Riley, San Juan, Klinkner, Ramminger, 2008).

Friendships Are Important
A teacher can help a child learn social skills by to taking turns using a classroom toy. She groups him with a close friend to use the toy and uses an egg timer so they know when to switch turns. Once they can do this easily, the teacher mixes up the pairs so they learn to share with classmates who are less close (Riley, et all).

Cultural Appropriateness is Important.
For example, in some cultures, it is considered a sign of disrespect if a child looks into the eyes of an adult while being reprimanded. In other cultures, lack of eye contact in such a situation is interpreted as disrespect. In some cultures children are encouraged to express their strongest feelings while in other cultures containment of emotion is valued (Derman-Sparks & Edwards, 2010).


