



FOCUS on Protective Factors

The old educational standby, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, certainly applies to the classroom and social relationships within our schools as well. According to multiple studies, particularly those of Dr. Charisse Nixon out of Penn State University, the following factors are among the most important protective factors we can develop among our children.

- **School Connectness**
 - **Empathy**
 - **Social Intelligence**

According to Dr. Nixon, students who tend to be repeatedly aggressive often have low empathy, but high social intelligence. Students who tend to be targeted regularly often exhibit high levels of empathy, but low levels of social intelligence.

Team LEAD addresses each of these factors on a weekly basis, helping students develop strengths in each area.

As you develop and expand your program, remember to keep these three factors at the core of all you do. By focusing on these three areas, we can help our students create a safer, more positive environment at school and in the community.