

28 April 2009

Dear Xxxxx,

We are delighted to announce that Roger Weissberg, President of CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) is visiting Belfast on the 10th June 2009 to lead a seminar on Social and Emotional Learning. We hope very much that you can join us for a unique opportunity to hear directly from someone whose work has been instrumental in developing proven practices and programmes used in thousands of schools and community settings around the world to improve children's well-being and learning outcomes.

Roger Weissberg is a Professor of Psychology and Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). For the past 25 years, he has trained scholars and practitioners about innovative ways to design, implement, and evaluate family, school, and community interventions. Professor Weissberg what works to improve Social and Emotional Learning with a particular focus on the link between academic attainment and social and emotional competence. Unlike many academics he has extensive experience of applying the findings of his research to real life challenges.

In addition to the numerous academic awards recognising his contributions, Professor Weissberg received a 2008 "Daring Dozen" awards from the George Lucas Educational Foundation for being one of the 12 people who are reshaping the future of education. Professor Weissberg has authored about 200 publications focusing on preventative interventions with children and adolescents and has written curricula on school-based programmes to promote social competence and prevent problem behaviours including drug use, high risk sexual behaviours and aggression. CASEL currently recognises almost two dozen proven model programmes.

Utilising the work of Weissberg and colleagues at CASEL, jurisdictions including many American States, Singapore and the Basque region have put improved Social and Emotional Learning at the heart of their educational policies. Such approaches recognise that social and emotional competencies can improve the ability to work in a team, effective stress management, and problem-solving, as well as helping to fuse the skills of an ethnically-diverse population. These are abilities that children need to succeed beyond school, as members of communities, contributors to the economy and citizens.

The seminar will take place on the 10th June 2009 at 4pm (Registration 3.34pm), Barnett Conference Room, Stormont Hotel, Belfast. As places are limited, we kindly request that you book as soon as possible by emailing oonagh@together4all.org or calling 07810 733442. Alternatively you can call Louise Park on Together 4 All's office number – 028 3839 6546.

Yours sincerely,

Nuala Magee, Chief Executive





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