

**Promotion of Prosocial Behaviors in the Classroom to Improve School Inclusion and Social Interactions**

Laura Nota & Salvatore Soresi  
Department of Philosophy, Sociology,  
Education and Applied Psychology  
University Center for Disability,  
Rehabilitation and Inclusion

Classmates' involvement is important to ensure social participation and interaction of children with more difficulties (with impairments, socio-cultural disadvantages, ecc.). At this regards we need to reduce the negative role of prejudice and stereotypes in the classroom towards them and increase prosocial behaviors. So, we involved a group of 140 Italian elementary children, randomly assigned to experimental and control group (70 to experimental group and 70 to control group; mean age: 8.82 years old; SD: .91). We measured social skills, social problem solving abilities, attitudes towards peers with difficulties and sociometric status of children at pre- and post-test. Psychologists, experts in prosocial behaviors but not aware of hypotheses, realized a ten sessions training program, discussing the importance of differences present in the class context which were associable with variables such as physical appearance, culture of origin, interests, cognitive processes, and the potential benefits of these on relationships and on classroom life. Particular attention was given to the prosocial behaviors to promote the values of participation and solidarity, and to foster friendly and mutual relationships. Results confirmed the importance of implementing interventions like this for promoting inclusion and social participation.



Room 351 - Level 3

16:30 - 18:00

**DIV16-505 - SYMPOSIUM**

**Global applications of prevention psychology to enhance health and well-being**

Convenor: John ROMANO (United States)

**International implications of the American Psychological Association guidelines for prevention in psychology**

John ROMANO (United States)

**Applications of prevention psychology in Israel: shifting between the future and the present**

Moshe ISRAELASHVILI (Israel)

**Workplace wellness: are we winning yet?**

Elizabeth NAIR (Singapore)

**Promotion of prosocial behaviors in the classroom to improve school inclusion and social interactions**

Laura NOTA, Salvatore SORESI (Italy)

**Discussion of prevention guidelines in psychology**

Arthur HORNE (United States)







