



Letter to Families

Dear _____,

Welcome to the *You Are a Social Detective!* curriculum. This letter is designed to introduce and provide information about supporting your child's learning at home.

The social world is a big, complicated place! We are all social detectives as we observe, gather, and make sense of the clues in different social contexts (settings, situations, and the people in them) to figure out the hidden expectations (sometimes called hidden rules) for expected behaviors, as well as to understand how we each feel and think about what others say and do in a situation. The aim of this curriculum is to teach social learners the power of observation, reading context, and interpreting clues to give them the tools, choices, and power to meet their social goals.

The lessons in *You Are a Social Detective!* are **not** about getting children to change their behavior. We're here to encourage children to learn new ways to think about themselves in relation to others. And yes, that process will inevitably involve talking about behavior. The emphasis, however, is on thinking about how we all notice one another and how we share space together. Students will . . .

- Learn formulas for gathering clues by observing what people do and say in social situations
- Learn to identify feelings and emotions and connect them to what people say and do
- Be empowered to figure out how the social world works through their own detective lens
- Understand that all thoughts and feelings are okay, and we can still learn and grow
- Get support from emojis and special word banks
- Learn Social Thinking core vocabulary concepts
- Practice making smart guesses across various situations

As you begin, here are a few tips to help support the learning at home:

- Identify books, movies, or TV shows that feature detectives. Read or watch together.
- Discuss: What did you notice about detectives? What tools did they use? What traits did they possess?
- Ultimately, discuss what it means to be a Social Detective in your home and in the community.

*Best Wishes,
Pam, Michelle, and Kari (Authors)*