CHILDREN’S WELL-BEING: THE FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

When a student is having difficulty with learning, it often isn’t just the learning material that is causing the issue. Children around the world experience various traumas that affect their mental, emotional, and physical health and thereby decrease their ability to benefit from educational opportunities. To help our children thrive, as learners and otherwise, we must protect the following key elements of a good childhood:

1. Safe places for living and learning, with proper nutrition, access to health care, and protection from violence and war

2. Strong families and loving, consistent caregivers

3. Social interactions and friendships to build interpersonal skills and a sense of belonging

4. Physical activity and opportunities for creative expression

5. Interaction with the natural environment and stewardship experiences

6. Education that develops the full capacities of the child—cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and ethical

7. Nurturing, child-friendly communities that support child and youth participation

8. Growing independence and decision making

adapted from the 10 Pillars of Childhood

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