**Factors That Can Determine the Social-Emotional Development of Children:**

**Introduction**

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As defined by the APA (American Psychological Association) Dictionary of Psychology, social development is “the gradual acquisition of certain skills, attitude, relationships, and behavior that enable the individual to interact with others and to function as a member of society” (APA, 2023). Emotional development is defined as, “a gradual increase in the capacity to experience, express, and interpret the full range of emotions and in the ability to cope with them appropriately” (APA, 2023). For children, these two types of development have great importance in their lifelong abilities in many different areas of life, such as personal interactions with others and general behavior. A healthy social/emotional development in children can lead to a better standard of living later in life, therefore it is important to be aware of what different factors affect this.

Factors that affect SED (Social-emotional development) can range from family background/economic standing, the type of environment the child grows up in, the child’s relationship with their parents, marital problems, and what has been discovered more recently to have an effect- the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic, having begun in the early months of 2020, remains too recent of an event for it to be studied very well. Therefore, it is more difficult to determine the link between SED and the online learning that began as a result of the pandemic. Online learning was a period of time in which all students were required to stay and study from home, missing out on more than a year’s worth of in person schooling. For the younger children that learn important processes of development during school time, in an environment of socialization with other children and adults, the loss of crucial beginning school years may have lasting effects on their development.

Research on SED has been considerably done, with papers on the subject documenting studies on several different factors. In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is not as many resources available, due to its recentness. The study that has been done take place through a short period of time. The research papers that will be presented are ones that provide important findings on a range of different factors that may affect the SED of a developing child. These papers will highlight the importance of a healthy social and emotional development, and how the alternative can lead to negative effects on other important aspects of a growing child’s life, such as education, behavior, and relationships with others.