After the past years of stress and disruption of the Covid pandemic, there is a lot of talk about social-emotional learning and whole-child approaches. And there are a lot of questions - What does this actually mean? What do I need to do differently? How can I make this happen on top of everything else? Turnaround for Children wants to help you find answers.

Turnaround’s Whole-Child Design Series (WCDS) engages participants in four highly interactive sessions about the science of learning and development and whole-child design. With colleagues, you will explore new information, strategies, and tools, and apply what you learn to your role and context. By the end of the fourth session, you’ll have concrete ideas about how to create positive learning experiences for your students to thrive.

About the Series

WCDS Structure:

✓ Four 2-hour workshops covering:
  1. The Science of Learning and Development
  2. Developmental Relationships
  3. Supportive Environments
  4. Integrated Knowledge, Skill and Mindset Development

(See page 2 for more complete descriptions)

✓ Option to add consulting hours for additional support

WCDS Participants:

The series is designed for district and school staff, including principals, teachers, student support staff, expanded learning providers, coaches, department directors and more. Participants are encouraged to join in school or district teams in order to share learning and plans for implementation.

A Whole-Child Design Blueprint

The content of the four sessions is based on Turnaround for Children’s Blueprint for Whole Child Design (see right). Each session will include science grounding, implications for practice, concrete tools and time for team discussions about application to your district’s context.

Explore the framework here.

For questions or interest, email partnerships@tfcusa.org
WCDS Session Descriptions

SESSION 1: The Science of Learning and Development
In this session, participants will understand how the brain develops, how it responds to stress, and what that means for teaching, learning and equity.

SESSION 2: Developmental Relationships
This session will focus on the first and foundational component of Whole Child Design – Developmental Relationships. We will explore the science behind the human relationship and discover the power of positive developmental relationships as the “active ingredient” in any equitable learning environment. Participants will gather practical strategies for focusing on relationships.

SESSION 3: Supportive Environments
In this session, participants will learn about the brain’s natural inclination towards predictability and the power of inclusion and belonging. When environments are supportive and orderly, the brain calmer and more focused, and students are more engaged in the learning process. Participants will gather strategies for creating environments that are supportive and inclusive of multiple backgrounds, cultures, and contexts so that all students can learn and thrive.

SESSION 4: Integrated Knowledge, Skills and Mindsets
The science of learning and development shows us that learning isn’t "academic" OR "social and emotional" – students become increasingly capable of complex skills through the integration of their cognitive, social, and emotional development. This session will explore the integrated development of skills and mindsets, focusing on how equitable learning environments support self-awareness and student voice. Participants will learn how co-regulation helps students strengthen the skills, mindsets, and habits to persevere in the face of challenges.

Participants Say:
In school year 2022, over 200 educators participated in the series.

- 98% of participants said they would recommend the series to their colleagues.
- 95% of WCDS participants felt the content of the series was relevant to their role and context.

“[Since the series] I have been integrating what I know about the brain and the impact of stress. I have also refocused my efforts to build relationships and to be the positive force on my site that students need.”
- 2022 Participant

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