

# Turning Students' Empathy into Action with Digital Tools

Building social and emotional learning (SEL) skills like empathy requires face-to-face interactions, meaningful discussions, and time for reflection. But this doesn't mean that digital tools and online resources can't also play a part. Here are three ways to use edtech tools that not only help your students build empathy, but also empower them to make an impact in the world.

## Tips for Using EdTech in Your Empathy Curriculum



- **Model and practice digital citizenship in your classroom:**
  - Set high expectations, and help students see how our feelings are connected to our behaviors.
  - Use a balance of online and in-person communication, and make sure technology doesn't needlessly replace face-to-face interaction.
  - Using our **Digital Citizenship Curriculum**? Both our student interactives and lessons already foster key SEL skills.
- **Introduce kids to different perspectives and people from different backgrounds:**
  - Connect students with others from around the globe.
  - Get students thinking about their similarities and differences.
  - Engage kids in **perspective-taking exercises**, such as tackling challenging, open-ended dilemmas with no clear right or wrong answers.
- **Help your students turn empathy into action:**
  - Inspire them with stories and projects produced by other kids, and give your students the tools and space to create their own.
  - Help students use a problem-solving approach when working to overcome obstacles.
  - Empower them to promote and share their work with an authentic audience beyond the walls of your classroom.

## More Resources for Teaching Empathy



- CASEL - [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)
- Character Lab - [characterlab.org](http://characterlab.org)
- Edutopia - [www.edutopia.org/social-emotional-learning](http://www.edutopia.org/social-emotional-learning)
- Start Empathy - [startempathy.org](http://startempathy.org)
- Teaching Tolerance - [www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/developing-empathy](http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/developing-empathy)