Where are we?
(...the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”  Genesis 3:9)

Teaching Soft Skills

...or killing softly
natural learning potential
Exhibit 3: A variety of general and targeted learning strategies foster social and emotional skills

- **Social and cultural awareness**
  - Foster greater respect and tolerance for others
  - Encourage empathy
  - Foster cultural self-awareness

- **Critical thinking/problem-solving**
  - Give constructive feedback

- **Competencies**
  - **Creativity**
    - Offer opportunities to build and innovate
    - Provide autonomy to make choices
  - **Communication**
    - Create a language-rich environment
  - **Collaboration**
    - Foster greater respect and tolerance for others
    - Provide opportunity for group work

- **Leadership**
  - Foster the ability to negotiate
  - Encourage empathy

- **Adaptability**
  - Foster the ability to process emotions
  - Practise both flexibility and structure

- **Persistence/grit**
  - Build in opportunities to learn from failure

- **Character qualities**
  - **Curiosity**
    - Encourage questions/guessing
    - Provide autonomy to make choices
    - Instil sufficient knowledge to ask questions and innovate
    - Evolve contradiction
  - **Initiative**
    - Provide long-term, engaging projects
    - Build confidence in the ability to succeed
    - Provide autonomy to make choices
  - **Leadership**
    - Foster the ability to negotiate
    - Encourage empathy
  - **Adaptability**
    - Foster the ability to process emotions
    - Practise both flexibility and structure
  - **Persistence/grit**
    - Build in opportunities to learn from failure

- **How to teach all skills**
  - Encourage play-based learning
  - Break down learning into smaller, coordinated pieces
  - Create a safe environment for learning
  - Develop a growth mindset
  - Foster nurturing relationships
  - Allow time to focus
  - Foster reflective reasoning and analysis
  - Offer appropriate praise
  - Guide a child’s discovery of topics
  - Help children take advantage of their personality and strengths
  - Provide appropriate challenges
  - Offer engaged caregiving
  - Provide clear learning objectives targeting explicit skills
  - Use a hands-on approach

Source: World Economic Forum
Building a castle...
… or falling in the trap of "The Sand Pile Effect"

a term coined to express the concept that some systems will sometimes present configurations so complex that the patterns of interactions between their components will inevitably lead to catastrophic results.
Encourage play-based learning
Break down learning into small co-ordinated pieces
Create a safe environment for learning
Develop a growth mindset
Foster nurturing relationships
Allow time to focus
Foster reflective reasoning and analysis
Offer appropriate praise
Guide a child’s discovery of topics
Help children take advantage of their personality and strengths
Provide appropriate challenges
Offer engaged caregiving
Provide clear learning objectives targeting explicit skills
Use hands-on approach
To avoid collapse or implosion...
Schools and learning communities are to embody and exemplify their values, i.e. LIVE the soft and skill-ful style they preach and let the mindset of natural growth flourish through love, sensitivity, devotion and connection.
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<thead>
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<th>Values</th>
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Trust, connect, create

On a daily basis

On a personal,
team,
school,
community,
national,
global level...
ASAT 😊