

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 About Special Ed Tech
- 3 Educational holiday websites
- 4 tidBITS:
Education.com free worksheets and more
- 5 PlayWorthy:
Review of ABCYa.com

Leveling Up

Earn CE certificates via many of these free and low-cost webinars, courses, and seminars. All webinars are recorded and can be seen at a later date. See altshift.education/events, edWeb.net, EduPaths.org, Kent County ISDs PD Hub, CECatalog, and ADDitudemag.com for additional instruction.

- **Your Complete Guide to the Hour of Code**, Mon., Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. EST on edWeb.net
- **Misconceptions About Student Literacy: Why**

Teaching SEL in the classroom with free online technology

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions, said school counselors Kasey Bradley and Jordan Tatom of Bedford County, TN, in a recent edWeb.net webinar. Bradley and Tatom presented practical classroom



Kasey Bradley

strategies for integrating SEL into the class day, as well as easy-to-use online resources.

Originally a math teacher, Bradley at first considered teaching SEL an unnecessary luxury, considering the many academic standards she had to meet. But she eventually discovered that SEL was crucial in helping students feel safety and belonging, which in turn greatly impacted their learning.

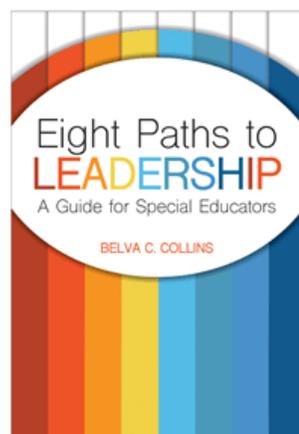


Jordan Tatom

Please see [Teaching SEL on page 7](#)

Paths to leadership for special ed teachers

Special education teachers naturally make good leaders because they have knowledge that other teachers don't, in the way of professional preparation, experience, empathy, access to resources, passion, and standards, said Dr. Belva C. Collins, professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the University of Kentucky



Please see [Leadership on page 6](#)

Leveling Up, continued from [page 1](#)

Growth Flatlines and What to Do About It, Tues., Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).

- **Using Education Technology to Support and Enhance Small Group Reading Instruction**, Tues., Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Shout, Stomp, Slam! How to Communicate and Connect with a Child Who Doesn't Want to Talk**, Wed. Dec. 5, at 1 p.m. EST on [ADDitudemag.com](#).
- **Fact vs. Fiction: Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in the Age of False News**, Thurs. Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Strengthening Parent-Teacher Partnerships: Meeting Parents Where They Are**, Thurs. Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Brave Your Fear: Helping Women and Girls to Face Fears and Take Action**, Mon., Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Students Leverage Technology Tools and Makerspaces to Personalize Instruction**, Wed., Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Think Like an Engineer**, Wed., Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Autism, Sexual Health, and Today's Sexual Culture**, Thurs., Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).
- **Sign Language Songs and Felt Stories: Literacy Learning in Early Childhood**, Mon., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. EST on [edWeb.net](#).

About *Special Ed Tech* / Subscriptions

Special Ed Tech, [specialedtech.net](#), is published monthly from September through May by the director of Aspiring Games Foundation, [aspiringgames.org](#).

To subscribe, go to [specialedtech.net](#), scroll to the subscription box on the bottom of the page, insert your e-mail address, and click the "Subscribe" button.

We welcome your questions and article suggestions. Direct all queries and subscription issues to editor Becky Palmer-Scott at SpecialEdTechEditor@gmail.com.

Educational holiday websites



Holiday fun with NORAD

The U.S. military got involved in Santa's affairs after the hotline of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) was mistakenly published in the newspaper as Santa's phone number in 1955.

Since then NORAD has been tracking Santa's Christmas Eve flight and they have also created an accompanying website, NORADSanta.org. In addition to tracking Santa, the website offers information about holiday traditions around the world, an advent calendar of games, a selection of holiday music, and more.

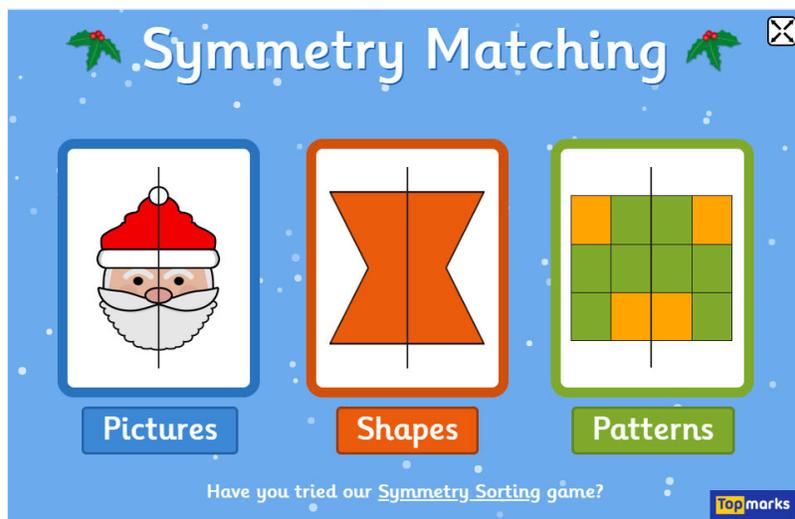
Reaching out to other lands with GlobalLab

Celebrate the holidays with peoples from other lands with GlobalLab.org. Discovery Education and GlobalLab bring you a collaborative project allowing community members to examine their favorite holidays and invent new ways to celebrate people, places, things, and events they love.

Holiday/Christmas online games

If you are giving your students a brain break, check out these holiday-themed games, in order of preference. Some may require Flash:

- [TopMarks Christmas Games and Activities](#), -- a variety of games including Christmas patterns, symmetry matching, math, logic, and music
- ABCYa.com Christmas games
 - [Christmas Lights](#) -- Draw Christmas lights on a house
 - [Christmas Tree Fun](#) -- Decorate a Christmas tree



Downloadable worksheets, activities, games, and more

If you haven't checked out Education.com lately, now is a good time to do so. It offers a wide variety of worksheets, online and offline games, guided lessons, lesson plans, hands-on activities, and more.

The site offers [free access to many of the items, including worksheets](#) and hands-on activities. For example, there are over 23,000 printable worksheets for grades K-5, searchable by **state standard**, **subject** (fine arts, foreign language, math, reading & writing, science, social/emotional, social studies, and typing) and **topic** (arts & crafts, coloring, holidays, offline games, pop culture & events, and seasonal)

You can access about 10 items for free per month. After that, you are offered a subscription, which is currently 50% off until December 12, 2018. 

Winter Word Search

I I B M C R T I O Z
T K M D O S D I M X
O Y I B L N P H A T
U Y T C D O S H W E
S T T A H W N F I H
K A E A N F O R N E
I G N Z H L W O T G
G L O V E A M S E D
J T E D D K A T R K
E I C E Z E N S S D

snowflake
glove
cold

snowman
hat
ski

mitten
ice

winter
frost



Play Worthy

ABCYa.com

Review of ABCYa.com

ABCYa.com provides games and short learning videos for grades K-5 on the topics of letters, numbers, holiday, strategy, and life skills. There are more than 300 games for desktop computer and over 200 games for iOS, Android, and Amazon Kindle. The games are free to access without a subscription, although if you buy a subscription you can assign the games to your students.

The site also offers how-to videos on simple craft projects that can be done in class or at home.

You have to be careful about what games are played on this site. Although the production value is generally good, many of the games are just fancy-looking quizzes and some have questionable learning value, despite being linked with Common Core standards.

In addition, some games require quick thinking in a competitive multi-player mode, which can have mixed effects on students.

Here are some worthy games, in no particular order, discovered after a perusal of the site. There may be many more.

- Cyber-Five -- Five rules to be safe online.
- Alphabetical Order -- put alphabetical blocks in order
- Alphabetize -- alphabetize words you provide
- Keyboarding Zoo and Keyboarding Zoo 2
- Alpha Munchies Typing Game
- Crossword Puzzle Maker Junior -- create your own crossword puzzle
- Molly Adds & Subtracts from 10 -- adding and subtracting with manipulatives
- The Calendar Game -- learn calendar terminology
- Tangrams -- spatial reasoning in scaffolded levels
- Marble Math -- adding with manipulatives
- Base Ten Fun -- adding with manipulatives
- Dress for the Weather -- dress a dog avatar to match the seasons
- US Geography - Puzzle Map -- learn U.S. states and their capitals
- Learn the Skeletal System -- label bones in a skeleton

Note also that the site's storybooks are narrated by a human voice and the words light up as they are spoken, though the illustrations are rather simple. 

Leadership continued from [page 1](#)

in a recent edWeb.net webinar.

If you are a special education teacher, Collins tells how to become a leader without leaving your teaching position. In her book, "Eight Paths to Special Education Leadership: A Guide for Special Educators," Collins advises special education teachers to consider one or more of the following paths and gives advice on how to succeed:

1. Making data-based decisions and conducting classroom research
2. Effecting schoolwide change
3. Mentoring other teachers and paraprofessionals
4. Conducting professional development and consultations
5. Working effectively with families
6. Supporting students during transitions
7. Advocating for students
8. Connecting with professional organizations that address disability-related concerns



Dr. Belva C. Collins

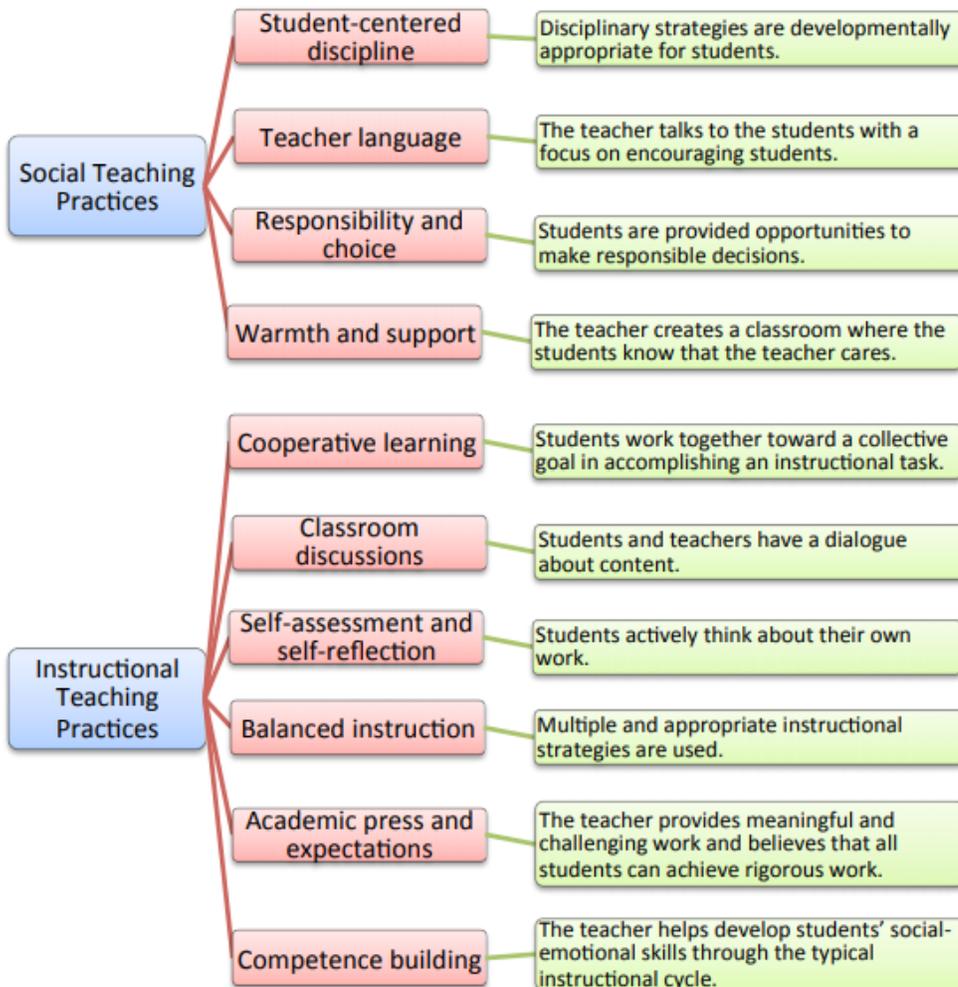
Her book is available through [Brookes Publishing Co.](#), and you can receive a discount on the book until the end of December 2018 by using the coupon code, EDWEBBC.

Find out more by viewing the recording of the edWeb.net webinar, [Eight Paths to Special Education Leadership](#).

SEL teaching continued from [page 1](#)

Here are some basic SEL concepts, taken from the website Casel.org/core-competencies, along with some teaching practices.

Figure 1. 10 Teaching Practices that Support SEL



Self awareness

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception
- Recognizing strengths
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy

Self-management

- Impulse control
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Goal setting
- Organizational skills

Social awareness

- Perspective taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others

Relationship skills

- Communication
- Social engagement
- Relationship building
- Teamwork

Responsible decision-making

- Identifying problems
- Analyzing situations
- Solving problems
- Evaluating
- Reflecting
- Ethical responsibility

From https://team-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/SELToolkit_6_3_15.pdf

Teachers are often the one adult that students see most, so

what teachers do affects students greatly. Modeling positive behavior, such as speaking calmly, slowly, and kindly, is a must.

You can integrate SEL concepts while discussing other concepts, said Tatom. For example, when teaching world history or current events, you can show what happens when countries talk to and respect each other as opposed to ignoring each other's needs or fighting. Or you can discuss the feelings that young people had in historic times, such as those of Anne Frank during WW II. In math you can create story problems which include SEL concepts. In science, you can tie in SEL through the way that students work together, such as working in groups, taking turns, and respecting one another's viewpoints even when disagreeing.

Tatom and Bradley were most excited to present the free resources for direct SEL instruction, which are short videos available online, appropriate for

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use a circle time, homeroom, during brain breaks, or when students are having a moment. Bradley advised using them when students are frustrated, angry, aggressive, unmotivated, lacking in self-confidence, argumentative, or disruptive. Students love them because they are so engaging. Here they are:

BrainPop

BrainPop is a subscription-based service but offers free videos on conflict resolution, setting goals, and personal hygiene. Along with the videos there are quizzes, classroom challenges/talking points, and many other activities. See these URLs:

- Conflict Resolution: <https://www.brainpop.com/health/psychologyandbehavior/conflictresolution/>
- Setting Goals: <https://www.brainpop.com/english/studyandreadingskills/settinggoals/>
- Personal Hygiene: <https://www.brainpop.com/english/studyandreadingskills/settinggoals/>

BrainPop Jr.

BrainPop Jr., for K to 2nd grade, is subscription-based but offers a variety of [free videos](https://jr.brainpop.com/free-stuff/), including one on bullying, at <https://jr.brainpop.com/free-stuff/>.

Flocabulary

[Flocabulary.com](https://www.flocabulary.com) is a subscription-based service but offers a 30-day free trial. The videos are for grades K through 5 but the videos can be used for all ages. Older kids think the videos for younger kids are very funny. A favorite video is the one on Bullying, for grades 4-8.

Flocabulary videos have a Discussion option which will pause the video at key moments for classroom discussion. It offers classroom activities such as vocabulary lists, quizzes, handouts, lesson plans, and state standards alignment.

Rocketkids on YouTube

Rocketkids videos on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) show real students talking about SEL issues. To find the videos, go to YouTube.com and search for "RocketKids" (all one word). Topics include "5 Things You Can Control," "How To Set Goals," "How To Change Your Mood," and "What is Bullying (the basics)".

GoNoodle

[GoNoodle](https://www.gonoodle.com) offers movement videos which students love. A favorite one is "Take a Breath" which teaches how to relax before test-taking.

Class Dojo

[ClassDojo](https://www.classdojo.com) is a classroom communication app which allows you to award points for good behavior, among other things. Read more about it at the SpecialEdTech.net article "Apps, websites and ideas for classroom management."

You can follow Bradley on Twitter at @kcbradley12 and Tatom at @CounselorTatom. See also the webinar, [Revamping Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\) in the Classroom with Technology](#).