



The Skill Builder

Spring 2007 Edition

Interactive Kids

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Who are we?

Interactive Kids offers a variety of services to improve the lives of individuals from ages 2 to 22.

Consultation:

Serves individuals, professionals, and other providers based on the best practices in assessment and treatment of behavior, learning, and socialization challenges in homes, schools, and the community.

Social Skills Groups:

Using small group instruction teaches the skills necessary to be successful in developing interpersonal relationships.

Workshops/Trainings:

Interactive Kids recognizes that it is crucial to remain knowledgeable and well-versed in the most up to date technologies. We can help you meet today's challenges—by designing and delivering programs that meet your objectives and ensure your success.

For more information visit our website:
www.interactivekidsllc.com

Why Do We Need Social Skills?

In order to build gratifying human relationships, it is vital that children learn and have the opportunity to practice the social skills considered appropriate by society. Some find this more difficult than others, because of learning or other cognitive challenges, visual or hearing impairments, or a physical disability that limits their chances to socialize. It is important to teach children to conduct themselves in ways that allow them to develop relationships with others.

Acquiring socialization skills does not happen overnight. These skills are developed through instruction, practice and reinforcement. Some of the most important aspects of socializing that individuals may initially have difficulty grasping include turn-taking during conversations, maintaining eye contact, being polite, maintaining attention, repairing misunderstandings, finding a topic that is of mutual interest, understanding others' perspective, managing anger, and distinguishing social cues (both verbal and nonverbal). These subtleties, however, are not impossible for individuals to learn.

As most children grow older, they interact more and more with people in situations where direct supervision by parents is not possible. Drawing from what they have learned at home and school about socializing, children make friends within their peer group and soon learn more about socializing, hopefully refining their social skills as they grow and mature. These friendships are important for all children to develop, not only because contact, understanding, and sharing with others are basic human needs. Friends also serve central functions for children that parents do not, and they play a crucial role in shaping children's social skills and their sense of identity.

Laying the foundation for socialization occurs by teaching these skills at home, school, and/or a social skills program. Utilizing discussions and practicing problem solving skills with the child can increase social abilities. Often these skills require additional small group instruction in a safe environment, led by trained professionals. Through the use of modeling, role-play, reinforcement and other specially designed techniques a child can learn to make and keep friends, deal with bullies, manage anger, and lead a satisfying life. A close relationship amongst parents, school professionals, and social skills program coordinators is of key importance to ensure generalization of the skills described above, thus ensuring the best life for your child.

Free Workshops*:

3/14/07 ~ ***Taking the Mystery Out of Special Education*** ~ Paulette Rappa, Director, ASAP Tutoring

4/11/07 ~ ***What are Developmental Disorders?***
~ Megann Czekalski, MA, BCABA, CBIS

5/23/07 ~ ***The Influence of Speech/Language Skills on Socialization***, Jodi Schechtman, MA, CCC-SLP, Director, Jodi Schechtman Speech Services

6/13/07 ~ ***Getting Rid of Unwanted Behaviors***,
Melissa Torpey, MEd, BCBA

*All presentations are at 6:30.

Call today to reserve your space!

Did You Know:

- Children with autism spectrum disorders face a host of problems as they approach adolescence, when social interactions become more complicated.
- Research suggests that behavior intervention increases children with ADD/ADHD's ability to concentrate in the classroom.
- 1 to 1.5 million Americans is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.
- ADD/ADHD is the most common child psychiatric diagnosis and three out of four of those diagnosed are boys.
- About half of children with learning disabilities have ADD/ADHD and forty percent receive special education programming.
- Megann Czekalski, Owner/Senior Consultant is the Applied Behavior Analysis advisor for FACES (Families for Autistic Children Education and Support Group of South Jersey) of Atlantic County.



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