

Middle School Social Skills Class For Students With Asperger's and HFA



A Social Skills Class for Middle School Students: A Key to Social Success

- ◆ **Rationale** for establishing a middle school social skills class
- ◆ **Overview** of the curriculum development process
- ◆ **Implementation** of the Program Curriculum
- ◆ **School based supports** and implementation
- ◆ **Looking ahead** to the future...it is bright!




Rationale for Program Start-Up

- Academic & Social/Emotional Learning Needs
- Specially Designed Instruction
- "Special Education Program" of Belonging
- Inclusion
- Instructional Context
- Research




Development of the Curriculum

- Design and Use
- Goals & Objectives
 - Materials
- Implementation




Implementation of the Curriculum

- Merge IEP goals with curriculum objectives
- Plan student schedules according to individual needs and social skills class time
- Meet and inform all academic teachers of students unique educational needs.
- Continual teacher consultation



Unit Development

| SAMPLE YEAR 1 | SAMPLE YEAR 2 | SAMPLE YEAR 3 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emotions | Self-Advocacy Skills | Active Listening |
| Nonverbal Communication | Cooperative Group Work | Organization & Resourcefulness |
| Conversation Skills | Problem Solving | Effort & Initiative |
| Personal Management | Friendship Skills | Flexibility & Cooperation |
| Middle School Relationships | Community Relationships | Oral Speaking Skills |



Social Skills Class “Start – Up”

- Involves team building and “getting to know you” activities
 - ✓ Develop Class agreement
 - ✓ Design and decorate skills binders
 - ✓ Create “ I am” poems
 - ✓ Plan weekly and Daily Schedule



REMEMBER!



- Time on each unit varies
- Always...
Revisit,
Review,
Revise!

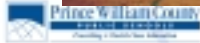


Class Structure

- Agenda checks (5 minutes)
- “What’s new” (15 minutes)
- Social skills lesson (30 minutes)
 - Game day
 - Organization day



Agenda Monitoring



Benefits of "What's New?"

- Nonverbal Communication Skills
- Conversation Skills
- Peer Relationships
- Self Advocacy
- Problem Solving



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Social Skills Lesson

- Direct instruction
- Group reading
- Group discussion
- Cooperative and individual activities
- Student presentations



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Game Day... just play??



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No...Social Skills In Action

- Theory of Mind
- Humor
- Flexibility
- Cooperation
- Problem Solving
- Sportsmanship
- Turn taking
- Vocabulary Development
- Strategizing

ENJOYMENT



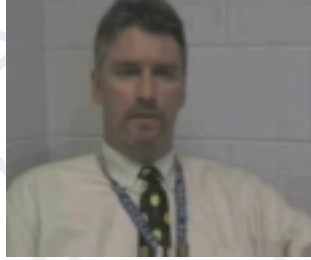
Organization Day



- Locker checks
- Notebook organization
- Assignment follow up

School Based Supports

- **Administration**
 - Scheduling
 - Implement guidelines
 - Communication with parents, teachers and students
 - Awareness of how to handle behavior or discipline issues



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Mr. Keenan, Assistant Principal



Teacher Perspective



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- Understanding of the disability
- Support of the “total student”

Ms McDaniel,
Learning Disabilities Teacher



Teacher Perspective



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- Communication of skills being taught
- Practice and use of skills

Mr. Anderson,
Inclusion Teacher



Teacher Perspective



- Progress over time
- Class participation
- Generalization of skills



Parent Perspective



- Less coaching needed as a result of skills learned in class
 - Improved cooperation
- Parent of 9th Grade Student

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Parent Perspective

- Generalization of skills outside school
- Refinement of skills over time

Parent of 8th Grade Student



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Parent Perspective

- Integration of skills
- Improved adaptability
- Eased transition to high school



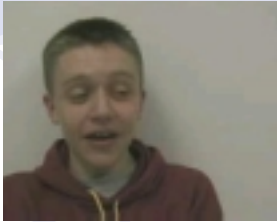
Parent of 9th Grade Student

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Student Perspective

- Improved communication skills
- Ability to comment on a variety of subjects



8th Grader, third year participant

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Student Perspective

- Friendship skills
- Improved work habits

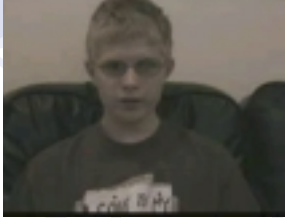


8th Grader, third year participant

[Click on picture to view video](#)



Student Perspective



9th Grader, two year participant



- Organization skills
- Understanding social situations
- Cooperative group skills

Student Perspective

- Use of appropriate conversation skills
- Awareness of appropriate nonverbal body language



9th Grader, two year participant



[Click on picture to view video](#)

Summary

- Increasing numbers result in greater need for social skills programs
- Social skills program ensures success in all aspects of life
- Commitment



**Looking ahead to the future.....
It is bright!!!!**

