



Social Skills/ Pragmatic Language Groups

at Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy

18512 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA

The ability to manage successful social interactions is a critical skill for school-age children. As social interactions increase once a child is in school, areas of concern regarding social interaction may become apparent. A child may benefit from a social skills group led by a speech language pathologist if they are demonstrating the following concerns; limited conversational turn-taking, unable to make appropriate conversational repair (i.e., child says something that might not have been understood by the partner, how to rephrase and attempt again), difficulty maintaining topic in conversation, introducing a new topic into conversation without a reference (i.e., beginning to recite lines or talk specifically about a movie they saw over the weekend without stating that information to a conversational partner), interrupting conversational partners, and providing inappropriate details in conversation. Additional concerns may include difficulty turn taking during age appropriate games, speaking too closely to a communication partner, using physical force or touching instead of words to communicate, avoiding interaction with peers, difficulty initiating conversation, difficulty appropriately asking for help, having limited thoughts about feelings of a communication partner (i.e., not realizing the effect their words may have on others) and using limited eye contact/poor body language.

Although each child in a social skills group will be working on his/her independent goals, general goals for a social skills group include the following:



1. Increase ability to appropriately initiate a conversation with peers.
2. Increase ability to engage in topic maintenance with a conversation partner.
3. Increase ability to make an appropriate conversational repair.
4. Increase ability to ask questions to appropriately gain information/clarification.
5. Increase ability to problem solve how your words may affect others.
6. Decrease negative conversational behaviors including interruptions, providing inappropriate details, decreased turn taking.

Goals listed are addressed in a variety of ways in the treatment session. Intervention techniques and sample activities may include use of social stories to introduce a novel positive communication skill to the group, allowing for discussion and implementation with clinician cueing during games throughout the session. Pictures of a variety of familiar everyday events, conflict situations and pictures requiring use of problem solving skills may be used to open up to group discussion on who has participated in the event, how the people in the picture might feel, and facilitating conversation with peers in the group. Additionally board games and structured "free play" is incorporated to assist in generalizing the learned skills into a natural communication exchange.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's social skills or pragmatic speech development and would like to consult with a therapist, please call Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy at 310-371-8555.