

Social Language Skills Groups

Language is the bridge to forming relationships and developing social skills. These groups give children the opportunity to learn about taking turns, getting along with each other, listening, valuing others, seeing themselves as part of a group, answering and asking questions. They will learn each other's names and learn that they have different jobs that make the group work well. Our main goal is to get comfortable and to get along with and communicate with each other! Target behaviors will be "spotlighted" and celebrated. These groups may be beneficial for children identified with auditory processing challenges, expressive language challenges, autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, and social anxiety.

Group objectives will vary according to age group, and may include the following:

- reading body language
- listening
- joining a group
- being a good sport
- facial gazing
- greeting each other
- turn taking
- offering help
- "keeping cool"
- expressing emotion
- asking and answering questions
- giving and receiving compliments
- being part of a group
- social referencing and prediction
- focused attention
- caring for others and changing behavior
- following directions
- proximity: recognizing "too close" and "too far"
- voice: loud enough, but not too loud for others
- noticing others and demonstrating interest in them

The best way to learn how to get along with new people is to get active. Age-appropriate activities, including games, role-playing, singing, crafts, cards, interactional play, and the Internet will be used to enhance the acquisition, performance, and generalization of social skills through verbal and nonverbal language.

For current and upcoming group dates and times, and to determine if a social skills group is appropriate for your child, we invite you to contact the Kaufman Children's Center by phone at (248) 737-3430, via e-mail at dianen@kidspeech.com, or visit our website at kidspeech.com.