School is social all the time!

Behavior is not all bad!

Social Behaviors
- Playing a game
- Following rules
- Answering a question
- Asking for help
- Sharing ideas or toys
- Taking turns
- Giving a compliment
- Grabbing materials
- Monopolizing conversation
- Cutting in line
- Insisting on being in charge
- Running off in the playground
- Quitting when losing
- Making inappropriate noises or comments

Start teaching social skills early!
Challenges to Social Skills

- Play skills
- Motivation
- Restricted Interests
- Pragmatic language skills
- Speech intelligibility
- Attention span
- Organizational skills
- Anxiety

Emotional regulation challenges

- "0 to 60" response
- Quick to cry, yell, lash out or withdraw
- Black/white thinking
- Difficulty losing a game
- Disinterest in another person's ideas or thoughts
- Upset when things aren't as expected them to be!

Strategies based on strengths

- Communicative – often verbal
- Good symbol recognition
- Good visual memory
- Imitative / modeling
- Friendly but shy personality
- Good sense of humor
- Excellent long-term memory
- Responsive to structure / routine

ABC’s of Behavior

Setting the Stage for Success

- Ability level – match to student
- Activity – interesting to student
- Timing – consider attention span
- School, home or community
- Resources – materials, models
- Strike when the iron is cold!

Setting the Stage Considerations
Effective Antecedent Strategies

- Environmental accommodations
- Visual supports
  - Schedules
  - Checklists
  - Self-monitoring checklists
- Timers
- Social Stories
- rehearsal and Modelling
- Video modeling
- Direct Instruction

Environmental accommodations

- Set up and organize each area in the classroom or work area
- Promotes independence and understanding of abstract rules
- Have clear physical and visual boundaries
- Minimize visual and auditory distractions

Environmental/physical structure

Elementary classroom

High School Classroom

Visual supports

Self-monitoring
Social Skills Strategies

• Capitalize on strengths
  • e.g., basketball, music
• Personalize strategies
• Practice/role play all roles
  • variety of settings, children and adults
• Real time support/feedback
  • Most to least support
• What’s popular with peers?
  • Games, shows, language

Teaching classroom skills

• Raising your hand
• Waiting to get called on
• Walking in the hallway

Teaching games

• Initially provide opportunities to observe
• Possibly give a job to help the team
• Pair with another student who is a good model
• Modified participation e.g., in for brief period of game

Preschool and Elementary School

• Plan and structure
• Just right amount of time
• Activities that promote interaction
• Include a snack
• Make a list - together
• Something for everyone
• “Social engineer”
  • Kids from school
  • Kids from community
• Monitor don’t hover

Middle School High School

• School clubs
• Assist the coach for school sports
• Bowling lanes
• Coffee shops
• Volunteer opportunities
• Community Centers

Communication skills
What are Social Stories?

Short, personally written “child friendly” stories that:
- Describe social situations
- Written in terms of relevant social cues and define appropriate responses
- Present information while minimizing social aspects of teacher/students interaction
- Written by parents, teachers, staff
- Developed by Carol Gray ~1989

“Cool school tools” Social Story

Role Play and Rehearsal

Why use video modeling?
- Effective when done properly
- Great for visual learners
- Highly motivating for many learners
- Sight and sound and action maintains attention
- Allows for repetition and consistency
- Positive antecedent strategy

Teaching the Hidden Curriculum

Hidden Curriculum
- The Hidden Curriculum are important social skills that everyone knows, but no one is taught.
  - Assumed rules
  - Adult or student expectations
  - Idioms and metaphors
- Understanding the hidden curriculum is difficult for everyone, but it is especially so for individuals with a deficit in social interactions.
Important Unwritten Rules

• Teacher or Parental Expectations
• Peers who are okay to interact with and peers to avoid
• Behaviors that attract positive attention versus cause trouble
• Sensitive topics to avoid

Teaching Social Boundaries: Circles

• Labeling and Matching using pictures
• Relationship pictures
• Matching behaviors to relationships
• Identifying cues to relationships

Schedules, Checklists, Social Skills

• do2learn.com
• interventioncentral.org
• carolgraysocialstories.com
• bestbuddies.org

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