

**Social Language Group Therapy
Addresses:**

- Perspective Taking
- Conversational Skills including Starting, Joining, Maintaining, Ending, Transitioning
- Active Listening & Asking Questions
- Appropriate Nonverbal Communication including Eye Gaze, Facial Expression, Body Posture
- Play Skills including Joining In, Turn Taking, Waiting, Thinking of Friends
- Positive Social Experiences & Making Friends
- Problem Solving and Working as a Team

Based on the work of Michelle
Garcia Winner's Social Thinking®



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**SOCIAL
LANGUAGE
GROUPS**

**MONTEREY BAY
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Who participates in Social Language Groups?

Social pragmatic language groups serve preschool and school-age children as well as adults with autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit disorders, non-verbal learning disabilities, social-emotional problems, other neurodevelopmental disorders, and undiagnosed difficulties with social communication.

Parents and individuals work with the therapist to determine readiness for dyads and small groups. Individual therapy may be necessary to support group participation.

Communication between team members including family members, teachers, and other professionals is an important part of the group therapy plan in order to create dynamic individual objectives that address problems observed at home, in the classroom, and in the community.

Where are the groups held?

Groups are held both in the clinic and in natural environments such as playgrounds, parks, and/or other community locations. Addressing social skills in natural environments facilitates “in the moment” support with problem solving and helps to facilitate generalization of skills.

Therapist provides support within naturalistic play and conversation as well as instruction within structured activities focusing on specific skills. These activities may include role play, video monitoring, drawing, developing a play plan, conversation logs/journals, social stories, etc.

What skills are addressed during Social Language Groups?

Therapy objectives are tailored to the individual needs of the group members and may include:

- Learning about friendship, what it means to be a friend, what we expect from our friends
- Staying with a group, working as a team to complete activities, and understanding group dynamics
- Using greetings effectively to acknowledge the presence of others including peers, teachers, family, and community members
- Getting the attention of others in order to start play or conversations
- Initiating play or conversations with appropriate comments based on peer’s interests, small talk topics, or conversations already in progress
- Asking follow-up questions given a peer’s topic by using who, what where, when, how, questions
- Using social language in games and making comments in conversations to continue a topic
- Balancing the role as listener and speaker
- Expanding on ideas presented in conversation by using complex, rich language, emotional lead-ins, opinions, and explanations
- Using clear speech in order to be understood including a slow rate, volume appropriate to situation, and correct prosody
- Understanding why and how we use eye gaze in play and conversations
- Improving use and understanding of nonverbal communication including eye gaze, facial expression, body language, body space rules, and context clues
- Identifying appropriate and inappropriate contexts for specific behaviors and topics
- Winning and losing with good sportsmanship

An emphasis is placed on understanding the perspective of others with the goal being an improved quality in personal relationships, successful communication, and a feeling of inclusion.

Scheduling, Documentation, & Fees:

- Groups are ongoing during the academic year and meet afterschool, in the evenings, or as needed based on scheduling requests
- Groups are formed based on client compatibility and developmental age
- Group participation is determined after an initial consultation appointment to review prior reports, complete intake questionnaires, and complete an informal assessment of social-pragmatic language skills
- Group activities and progress is documented and made available to families and clients in written form
- Group rate: \$85/session

To obtain additional information about the social language groups or to schedule a consultation, please contact Brittany at 831. 205.0056.