



# Embedding Social Skills in your Classroom



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## WHAT ARE SOCIAL SKILLS?

The skills we use every day to interact with the world around us

This includes both verbal and non-verbal communication.

- vocal conversation
- alternative methods of communication
- body language
- hand gestures
- facial expressions

## WHY DO WE NEED TO TEACH THEM?

When we go to a new environment with new routines and expectations, typically a neurotypical learner is able to observe their environment and imitate those social norms or expectations. Many of our neurodivergent learners with Autism are not able to pick up on those social norms and imitate them. Social skills must be taught!



## WE NEED SOCIAL SKILLS IN ORDER TO.....

Access our world!

- go to the grocery store
- order food at a restaurant
- buy clothes or other goods
- apply/interview for a job
- get/maintain a job
- have/maintain friendships
- have/maintain a relationship

## BE INTENTIONAL! MAKE A PLAN

- Choose setting: (1:1, small group, when, where, etc)
- Determine target skills
- Introduce the skills
- Model
- Practice
- Provide feedback.





# THIS DOESN'T WORK!

When we do consulting in classrooms around the state, there are so many times when we see this model being used, social skills are taught during designated social skills lessons but throughout the day, when a student does not comply with social norms, they are reprimanded. THIS DOESN'T WORK! All day every day, we should be using each of those moments as teaching moments, not pushing them! When students cut in line, say inappropriate things in class, eat their friends lunch, these are all perfect moments to incorporate social skills!



## PURPOSELY TARGETING SOCIAL SKILLS

We can incorporate and facilitate SO many different social skills during our day. Here are some opportunities you might see in your class.

Social skills to target: Taking turns, Asking for help, initiating and maintaining Conversation, Play skills, waiting while someone is talking, raising your hand, practicing small reaction vs big reaction, talking about how to regulate your emotions, greetings, requesting help, controlling volume, personal hygiene, etc.

- Play!
- Cooking
- Science Experiments
- Snack Time
- Calendar/Morning Meeting
- Coffee Cart/Snack Cart
- Any naturally occurring activity!



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



GET CONNECTED!



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