

## How will social communication skills help my child?

We use these skills to...

- Make friends
- Stand up to bullies
- Work in a team (school projects, home activities, sports, etc.)
- Advocate for needs
- Succeed in future jobs

## We serve individuals that experience difficulties with social communication as a result of a variety of diagnosis areas (and not limited to):

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Intellectual/Cognitive Disability
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Other neurological diagnoses



*Some silliness with our new friends!*

## What parents have said:

- “He says other’s names more, to get their attention.”
- “He started calling relatives on the phone to chat with them.”



*Working together to solve a scavenger hunt clue!*

ASHA - Social Communication Disorder Page  
<https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934980&section=Treatment>

# Social and Functional Communication Groups



UW Speech and Hearing Clinic  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Facilitated by UW-Madison  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Graduate Students

*For more information contact:*

*UWSHC 608-262-3951*

*Clinical Associate Professor Kim  
Caul, MS/CCC-SLP*

*608-262-1382, [caul@wisc.edu](mailto:caul@wisc.edu)*

## Benefits of group therapy:

- Provides real-life simulation of social communication situations, promoting generalization to interactions occurring outside of the clinic
- Allows for participants to share ideas/opinions, creating a more diverse learning experience and encourages perspective-taking
- Creates an opportunity for participants to practice and apply what they have learned while in a safe environment



## Instruct-Practice-Apply *What does it mean?*

### Instruct:

- Clinicians will define and model the topic or targeted skill of the week
- The group will discuss the relevance and importance of that topic or skill in their lives

### Practice:

- Clients will engage in controlled, small group activities and role play that offer opportunities to practice the topic or skill

### Apply:

- In a group setting, with peers, clients receive the opportunity to implement the skills learned

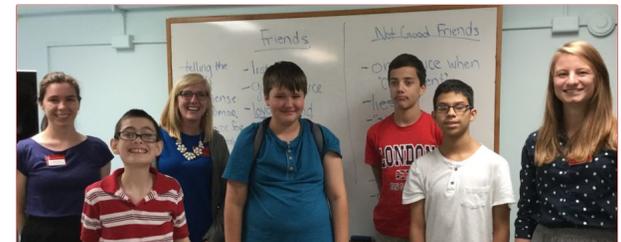
**Importance:** Social interactions are abstract! We provide explicit instruction and a safe environment for questions and discussion to achieve comprehension of social behaviors. We use therapeutic strategies and techniques that make navigation of social contexts more concrete.

## Possible topics:

- Thinking about others' interests
- Starting and ending conversations, and small talk
- Non-verbal communication
- Teamwork and good sportsmanship
- Negative comments and constructive criticism
- Nonliteral language and communication breakdown repair
- Self-advocacy, asking for help

## Possible activities:

- Scavenger hunts
- Barrier description games
- STEM projects
- Crafts
- Sharing of self activities



***What does it mean to be a friend?***