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Building Social Skills for Community Success...

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A University Center For Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education,
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Training Objectives

- Understand why social skills are so important.
- Have an understanding of what categories of social skills are needed for positive community access.
- Have an understanding of how theatre activities can help address these same social skills.

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Social



*Why is it so, so
important?*

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Social Communication

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along.”

 ---Theodore Roosevelt

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Social Skills Count

“Having good social skills simply means people share their space with others effectively.” -- Winner, 2005

Social skills are not just for using in social situations or for making friends. These skills are needed for everyday function in all settings.

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What social skills have you already used today?



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Where did you learn social skills?

“We do it intuitively”

“Now we have to teach it cognitively”




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Teach Me How


- Social skills need to be taught directly and explicitly in a variety of settings.
- Individuals with ASD will not learn social skills just by being around people who have good ones.
- Understanding that social skills change as we grow and change.

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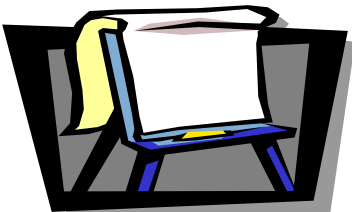


So what social skills are the most important?

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What are the community opportunities (classes) for young adults here in Albuquerque, New Mexico?



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What social skills are needed to be successful in most community classes?


Let's look at the categories...

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- Communication...
- Participation...
- Self Management...
- Problem solving...

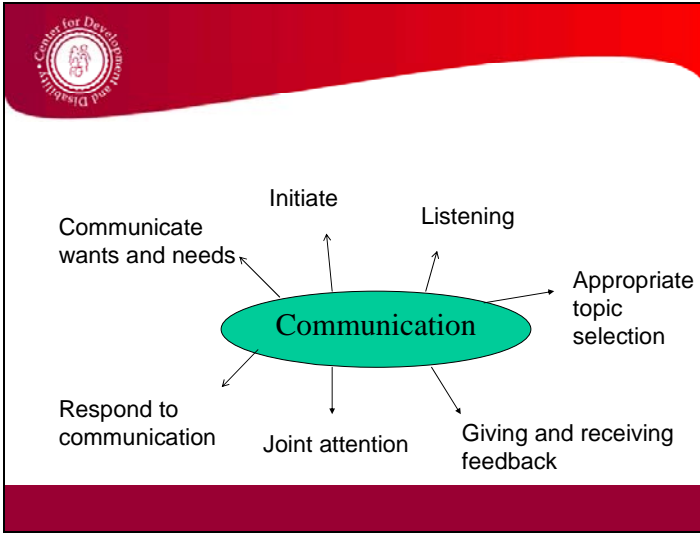
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Small Group Activity

- 1). Pick a bubble
- 2). Identify the sub-skills you would need for the category to be successful in community class
- 3). Share with large group

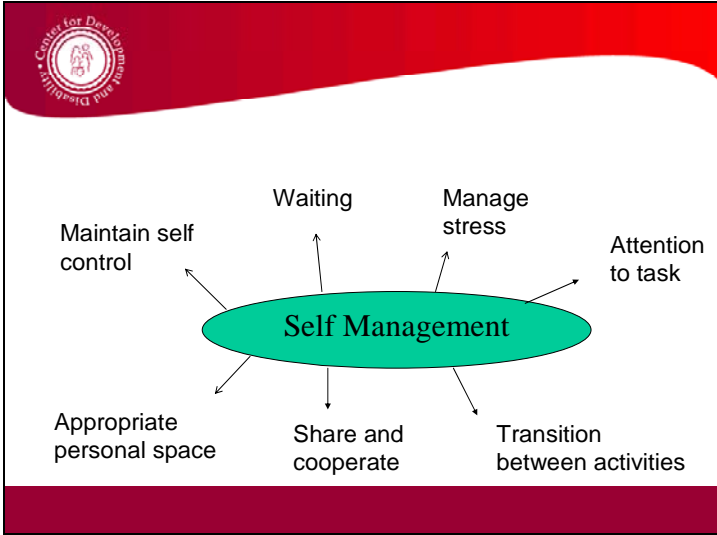
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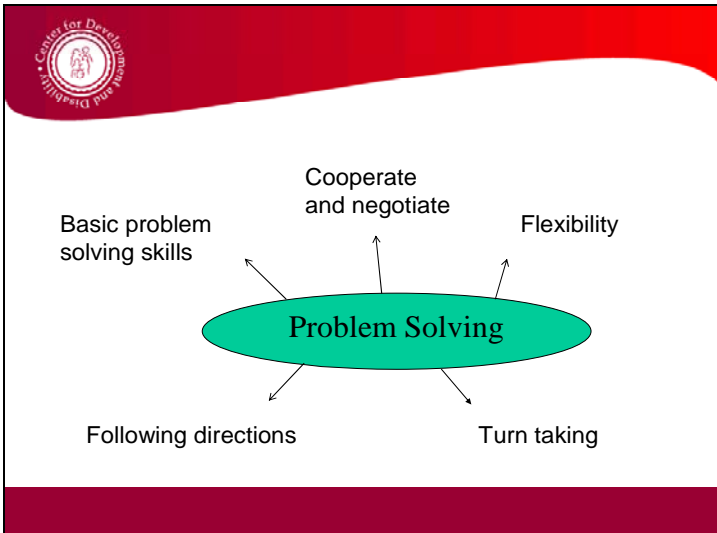
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Young adults are more successful and have more opportunities if these social skills are emerging, proficient, or mastered.


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Using theatre games to build these social skills...

Theatre Games	Social skills addressed
Pass the movement	Imitation, turn taking, flexible thinking, engagement, waiting, listening initiating, sharing space, trying new things, responding to communication, participation
"YES" game	Turn taking, non-verbal comm., engagement, listening, initiating, participation, attending, trying new things


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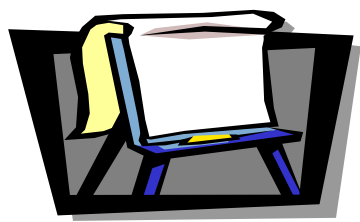
"YES" game

Let's Play...

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What social skills did you use?



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What would you do to support someone if these social skills were just emerging?


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Strategies


- Social stories
- Video modeling
- Visual schedules
- Visual cues
- Environmental set up
- Sensory adaptations
- Practice
- Role play

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Learning social skills in a FUN and STRUCTURED manner can support young adults with ASD to have more opportunities in the community.


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Now we have to get our community ready for our Young Adults with ASD...

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What is the Autism Program Doing to support this...

- Consulting with the following community programs to help them better serve young adults with ASD:
 - Theater classes = Theater-in-the-Making
 - Martial Arts = Just For Kicks
 - Art classes = VSA (Children at this time)
 - Kayacking = NM Kayak Instruction, Inc.
- Introduction to Autism and Visual Supports for Persons with ASD are offered around the state free of charge

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Questions / evaluation

Thank you
