

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Dyspraxia
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider

www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com

Achieving Social Skills Milestones



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

As most people would intuit, research supports the notion that social skills lead to a happy, successful life. Research has linked social skills to academic achievement¹, resiliency,^{2,3} and job success⁴. Research has also linked social skill deficits to delinquency, school dropout, and substance abuse among adolescents.⁵ Studies have long established social skill deficits during childhood as the single best predictor of mental health problems later in life.^{6,7} For most parents, it is easy to take social skills for granted. However, some children become delayed in their social skill development. Social skill delays may stem from inherited tendencies, environmental problems, learning disabilities, developmental delays, or delays may have no known cause. Some situations merit additional assistance to maximize the child's ability to develop social skills. The occupational and speech therapists of Emerge help teach social skills to children when they do not seem to be developing at normal rates. Look for these social skill milestones among children in your care:



Two & Three Years Old

- Uses objects symbolically while playing alone
- Watches other children and joins their play briefly
- Participates in simple group activities
- Begins to play house
- Understands gender

Three & Four Years Old

- Shares toys
- Takes turns with assistance
- Begins dramatic play and acts out whole scenes

Four & Five Years Old

- Shows interest in exploring differences in the sexes
- Dramatic play is closer to reality in terms of attention to detail, time, and space
- Plays dress up
- Plays and interacts with other children

Five & Six Years Old

- Chooses own friends
- Plays simple board games
- Plays competitive games
- Plays cooperatively with other children and can participate in group decisions, role assignments, and fair play

The pediatric experts at Emerge use private play sessions, selected child pairings, and/or carefully enrolled group sessions to help teach children age-appropriate social skills. These sessions help children successfully navigate school and develop friendships. Each summer, Emerge offers special interest group sessions. The summer sessions create the opportunity for children to receive a more intensive therapy experience, in a small group setting, for less cost.

Summer Group Sessions at Emerge

Staying Cool: Develops coping skills for children 4 ½ to 8 who struggle with anxiety. Children who exhibit anxiety related to school, change, peers, or other aspects of daily life will benefit from this program. Activities will include yoga, music and movement, arts and crafts, feelings exploration, and cognitive/behavioral strategies.

Preschool Power: This small occupational and speech therapy group focuses on effective communication skills, appropriate peer interactions, classroom behavior, and developing fine motor skills for children ages 3-5. This program will prepare children for future classroom settings.

Recipe for Fun: This summer program, centered around cooking, combines occupational and speech therapy for children with mild to moderate speech / language delays, Asperger's Syndrome, high functioning autism, mild developmental delays, and other challenges.



Please tell parents about Emerge – A Child's Place

References

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