



What is Social Thinking®?

Helping students experience social success

Learning Solutions, LLC
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Agenda

- Introductions
- What Is Social Thinking?
- Who uses Social Thinking? When, where, how?
- Supporting Learners with Social Thinking Deficits
- Teaching Social Thinking
- Q & A



Learning Solutions

- To help children experience social success, we provide:
 - Social Groups (Norwood, MA office)
 - Educational Consultation
 - Student or group specific
 - Classroom, school, or district-wide program & curriculum development
 - Afterschool, Camp, and Community
 - Trainings and Workshops
 - Social Strategy Tutorials coming soon!
- We support students experiencing social challenges
 - Asperger Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder/PDD, ADHD, Nonverbal Learning Disorder, Learning Disabilities/other challenges



What is Social Thinking®?

- Understanding others' **meaning** (from verbal and nonverbal communication) and using it to determine how to **respond**
- **Considering others'** perspectives, emotions, thoughts, and intentions
- Learning and **applying social information** including social conventions
- Typically, Social Thinking is innate

From (Michelle Garcia Winner, Pamela Crooke, Ph.D. (2000) and www.socialthinking.com



Who Uses Social Thinking? When, where, how?

EVERYONE is **EXPECTED** to use Social Thinking **EVERYWHERE**.

- Social Thinking in Practice
 - At Home
 - At School
 - At Work
 - In the Community



Social Thinking is Everywhere: *Initiating a Conversation*

- **THINKING** about who you want to interact with.
- Approaching another and non-verbally stating your **INTENTION**.
- Using language functionally to engage in a conversation with this person, and share your **THOUGHTS**.



Social Thinking is Everywhere:
Responding to Communication

- Interpret who is the person **SHARING SPACE** with me
- Determine the **INTENTION** of this person talking with me
- Consider what the person **THINKING**, and how **I ACT to influence those THOUGHTS**



Social Thinking is Everywhere!

Always

Sometimes

Never



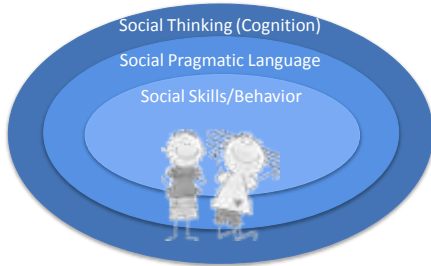
Social Thinking in Context



Infant Toddler Preschool Childhood Adolescence/
Adulthood



Social Thinking in Context



Supporting Learners with Social Thinking Deficits

- As a teaching strategy, Social Thinking helps *“people with social deficits and attention deficits, with the ability to ‘read’ and understand the unspoken social conventions which peers acquire intuitively.”*

From (Michelle Garcia Winner, Pamela Crooke, Ph.D. (2000) and www.socialthinking.com)
- Social skills/language/thinking groups
- Structure the social scene

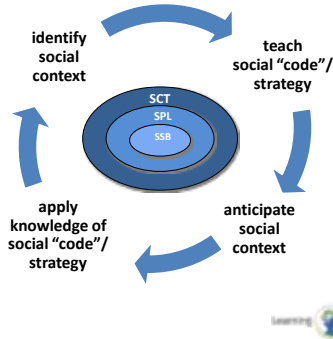


Supporting Learners with Social Thinking Deficits

- Whole class/inclusive community instruction
 - Integration with academics
 - Social Skills/Thinking Language Groups
- Use teachable moments
 - “Narrate to navigate”
- Generalization
 - Consistency of terms and visuals
 - Consistency across school, afterschool, etc.
 - Parent/team involvement & education



Supporting Learners with Social Thinking Deficits



Social Thinking Instruction: *Sample Group – Thinking with your Eyes*

- **Free Play Activity**
 - Facilitated/modeled play, time to settle in, observation of students
- **Snack**
 - Facilitated “chit chat”/“hanging out”
 - Sharing a “social secret” related to the concept/lesson
- **Concept Presentation**
 - Thinking with your Eyes definition/reason, examples, and practice
- **Reinforcing Activity**
 - Pass the Ball
- **Wrap-Up**
 - Compliments
 - “Follow my eyes to guess my thoughts” game

Social Thinking Instruction: *Expected vs. Unexpected Behavior*






- Visuals
- Social behavior maps
- Volume scale
- Problem solving/coping scales
- Video analysis



Expected Behaviors	How They Make Others Feel	Consequences you Experience	How you Feel about Yourself
	➡	➡	



Voice Volume Scale

5	Loud Voice (emergency, yelling)	
4	Outside Voice (recess, playground)	
3	Inside Voice (talking, classroom)	
2	Small Inside Voice (whisper)	
1	No Voice (quiet, listening)	



Problem Solving Scale

Identifying the size of a problem. —→ Match to a coping strategy.

Emergency 5	Get an adult right away. Call 911.
Big 4	Tell an adult. Ask for help right away.
Medium 3	Think. Try to fix it. Ask for help to fix it.
Small 2	Think. Try to fix it. Let it go.
Minor 1	Let it go.







Social Thinking Instruction: Brain Files

- Picture chart of classmates
- Shared wonder bubble
- Peer interviews, Make files
- Sometimes, Always, Never

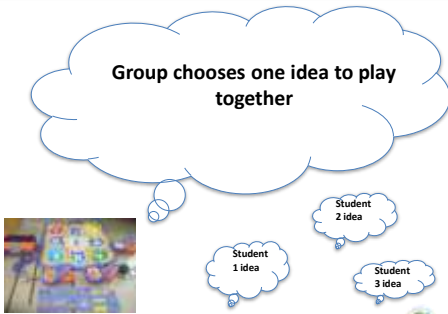


Social Thinking Instruction:
Brain Files – Picture Chart of Classmates

Sam	Tommy	Jane	Daniel
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Likes chicken nuggets. ✓ Favorite color is red. ✓ Likes to swim. ✓ Likes to ride bikes. ✓ Has a dog. ✓ Does not like scary movies. ✓ Has blue eyes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Likes chicken nuggets. ✓ Favorite color is green. ✓ Likes to swim. ✓ Likes to play basketball. ✓ Has a fish. ✓ Does not like scary movies. ✓ Has brown eyes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Likes pizza. ✓ Favorite color is purple. ✓ Likes to swim. ✓ Likes to play soccer. ✓ Has a cat. ✓ Likes Disney movies. ✓ Does not like loud noises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Likes hot dogs. ✓ Favorite color is red. ✓ Likes to swim. ✓ Likes to go sledding. ✓ Has a dog. ✓ Likes Disney movies. ✓ Does not like hard puzzles.



Social Thinking Instruction:
Brain Files – Shared Wonder Bubble



Social Thinking Instruction:
Thinking with your Eyes

- Lining up
- Passing a ball
- Binoculars
- Build-a-tower
- Read my body plan



Social Thinking Instruction:
Thinking with your Eyes – Build-a-tower

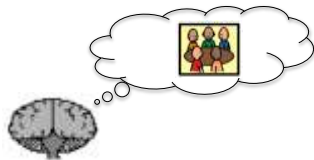


Turns without talking, each adding a block at a time and others using non-verbal gestures to help

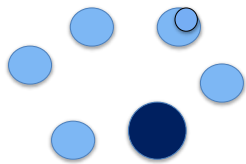


Social Thinking Instruction:
Keep your Body and Brain in the Group

- o Label life-sized drawings
- o Drawing with favorite characters
- o Role play scenarios
- o Play-doh representations of group members

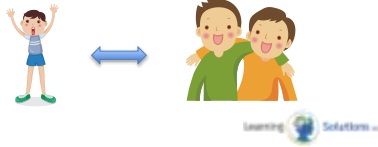


Social Thinking Instruction:
Keep your Body and Brain in the Group



Social Thinking Instruction:
Just ME vs Thinking of YOU

- Art Mural with limited materials/supplies
- Lego building
- Recyclable sculptures
- Paper Mache volcano



Social Thinking Instruction:
Just ME vs Thinking of YOU – Art, Sharing Materials



Social Thinking Instruction:
Groups @ Learning Solutions

- Matched, small groups of students, determined after intake. (Similar chronological age, skill level, interests, and goals.)
- Experienced Clinicians and Coaches (2 adults with up to 6 students).
- Meet once/week for an hour.
- Weekly information to families, Parent Workshops for generalization of skills.
- Curriculum individualized for group.
- Utilize concepts/lessons from texts such as:
 - [ThinkSocial!](#) (Michelle Garcia Winner)
 - [SuperSkills](#) (Judith Coucouvanis)
 - [The Incredible 5-Point Scale](#) (Kari Dunn-Buron & Mitzi Curtis)



To Learn More...

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New Location as of Feb. 19, 2012
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