



# SOCIAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The Social Language Group Program at SPG offers small group intervention to improve social skills and language in children. Groups are conducted by a team of highly specialized speech-language pathologists, and meet weekly at the Walnut Creek clinic (near John Muir Hospital), located at 2021 Ygnacio Valley Road.

## SPG SOCIAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The Speech Pathology Group's Social Language Program focuses on improving social skills and language in children in small group contexts. Therapy objectives particularly emphasize improving nonverbal and verbal communication, conversation, turn-taking and play skills, social cognition/perspective-taking, and active listening.

## OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Each social language group is staffed by highly trained, licensed and certified speech-language pathologists who share a special interest in working with children with social-pragmatic language disorders. Therapists' backgrounds may include training in Greenspan's Floortime model, Wolfberg's Integrated Play Groups, Gutstein's Relationship Development Intervention, and Michelle Garcia-Winner's Social Cognition.

## SMALL GROUP PLACEMENT

Small group therapy is appropriate for preschool and school-aged children with language and social challenges that are often associated with autistic spectrum disorders, attention deficit disorders, nonverbal learning disability (NLD), social-emotional difficulties and other neurodevelopment disorders.

Each potential participant will receive an initial consultation by a staff pathologist to determine the child's developmental age and interests, strengths and areas of need. Following the consultation, a recommendation for group placement will be made. In certain cases placement will be deferred in favor of individual therapy to strengthen foundation skills for social interaction, such as attention and turn-taking.

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# SOCIAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

## PRESCHOOL GROUPS

Preschool groups typically work on developing basic social skills including turn-taking and cooperative play. Groups also establish emerging conversational skills, such as reciprocating comments, asking/answering questions, and maintaining topics. Groups may incorporate typically developing peers to model appropriate language and social skills. Groups are limited to four participants with a two to one child/staff ratio.

## SCHOOL-AGE GROUPS

School-age groups focus on the individualized needs of each client, and may include a combination of work in a therapist-facilitated pair or small group. Objectives often target perspective-taking, conversational skills, active listening, emotional regulation, problem solving in social conflicts, and improving nonverbal communication (eye contact, facial expression, posture/gestures, vocal tone and loudness, etc.) Methods of instruction may include structured activities, focused discussion groups, roleplaying, and videotaped reviews of client interaction.

## SOCIAL LANGUAGE GROUP FACILITIES

Group sessions are held in one of six therapy rooms equipped with closed circuit video monitoring. Parents may periodically observe sessions, provided the parents of all the participants give their consent.

## OBJECTIVES, PROGRESS, AND DOCUMENTATION

After a period of four to six sessions, the therapist can discuss treatment objectives with the parents. (Extra charges apply for written reports when requested.) Oral or written progress reports are available upon request.

## SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP

The Speech Pathology Group offers a six-week summer program incorporating weekly field trips and clinic discussion groups for children 5-8 and 8-12 years. Local field trips provide children with shared positive experiences that reinforce concepts of friendship and camaraderie, while practicing appropriate social skills in a variety of nonclinical settings. Weekly clinic discussion groups focus on reviewing prior field trips, planning future outings, and practicing appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

## GROUP SCHEDULES

Groups meet weekly and are formed throughout the calendar year. Groups typically do not meet during the weeks of Christmas and spring break. With adequate notice, participants may schedule up to three additional absences without charge per calendar year for family vacations. We are unable to give refunds or reschedule missed or cancelled appointments.