

For middle and high students, a five week session being offered focusing on social language skills, or pragmatics, in a small group setting. Research shows that individuals are most successful in acquiring pragmatic language skills when in a small, supportive group setting where they can practice these skills as part of a peer group. Sessions will focus on social thinking concepts and “hidden” social rules. Each week new vocabulary and concepts will be introduced. The teens will be provided with opportunities to practice social activities such as conversations and group projects. Methods of instruction may include structured activities, focused discussion groups, role playing, and videotaped reviews of client interaction.

“TEEN CHAT”

Session One: Reading Nonverbal and Other Social Cues

- *Discussion on body language, facial expressions, gestures cues, vocal cues and other nonverbal indicators*
- *Watch video clips of shows and discuss as a group nonverbal cues noted and meaning behind expressions*
- *Look through teen magazines and make up stories about people pictured in magazine based on their body language and/or facial expressions*
- *Role play and video tape various situations and the different nonverbal cues associated with those scenarios*
- *Review video tape and discuss*

Session Two: Joining a Conversation

- *Introduce and discuss conversation joining concept-PATHS (P-prepare ahead, A-ask yourself what are you going to talk about, T- time it right, H-say hello, S- nonverbal signals)*
- *Watch video clips from movies and discuss which aspects of PATHS were modeled by the different actors*
- *Interview each other using prepared sheets with questions called a fact file*
- *Review interview form from partners fact file and develop a conversation starter grid using PATHS*
- *Initiate conversation using conversation starter grids*
- *Suggested home activity – develop fact file on family member, then complete a conversation starter grid using PATHS and initiate conversation using the preplanned ideas*

Session Three: Active Listening

- *Group Juggle, and “Were you Listening Game”*
- *Active listening suggestions discussed and provided*
- *Role playing active listening scenarios taking turns being actors and directors. Directors identify when actors demonstrate correct and not correct examples of active listening*
- *Active listening activity*

Session Four: Understanding Slang and Non-literal Language

- *Idiom and slang concentration game*
- *Game about taking figurative language literally*
- *Making pictures to accompany idiom phrases and remember their meanings*
- *Compile idiom books using pictures from class*

Session Five: Perspective Taking and Flexibility

- *Perspective taking introduction*
- *Exploring social expectations*
- *Think, know, and guess activity*
- *Mock interviews in which teens think about employer’s perspective and apply their insights to making a good impression at a mock interview.*