



Social Skills Curriculum for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

*Updated by Amy Moore Gaffney, M.A., CCC-SLP
January 2020*

Individuals on the Autism Spectrum characteristically have deficits in social communication and social interaction skills. Teaching social skills requires educators and families to determine the needs of each student. Social skills are foundational to success in school and in life. The use of technology has also added a new dimension to teaching social skills. It is important to carefully choose curriculum and programs that are successful and research based whenever possible.

Below is a listing of some examples of curriculum and programs that can be used to teach social skills to individuals on the autism spectrum. In addition to these programs, please be aware that there are many other supplemental programs, books, strategies, and resources that are not included but are available. Many of these resources can be accessed by Indiana residents via the [Library at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#). Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement of any one program.

Resource: Act It Out

Grades: 7 to 12

Description: One year of Social Skill Lessons, utilizing scripts, skits, and guided practice.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Autism, What Does it Mean to Me?

Grades: 3 to 12+

Description: A workbook, explaining self-awareness and life lessons, using structured teaching strategies.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>

Resource: Building Social Relationships

Grades: K to 12+

Description: This resource provides a comprehensive, five-step model of how to address social skills for children and adolescents through designing effective social programming. Can be used to guide curriculum.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://www.aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: The Cartoon and Script Curriculum for Teaching Social Behavior and Communication

Grades: K to 12

Description: This curriculum uses Visual Strategies. The skills are presented in the form of cartoons, scripts, and roll play to address a range of developmental levels. The curriculum breaks down complex behaviors into manageable steps. The lessons promote generalization of skills across settings and people.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Destination Friendship

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Easy-to-use, research-based strategies and activities that support the development of friendship skills in children with ASD. Theme-based sessions include social activities and situations to practice friendship skills. Includes The Friendship Skills Checklist.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Do-Watch-Listen-Say

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Research-based techniques and an assessment tool are included in this intervention guide. Activities included can be easily adapted to develop a curriculum. Practical and user-friendly.

Vendor/Company: Brookes Publishing Company <http://www.brookespublishing.com/>
<http://autisminstitute.net/>

Resource: Enhance: Social Skills

Grades: 6 to 12+

Description: Curriculum focusing on social skills development of 50 important skills. Provides students with step-by-step instruction via video modeling, photo-based directions, and role playing.

Vendor/Company: Attainment Company <http://www.attainmentcompany.com>

Resource: Hidden Curriculum

Grades: 1 to 12+

Description: Books written to provide a “hidden curriculum” of social rules to help children and adolescents with social skills, particularly peer relationships and everyday activities.

The Hidden Curriculum and Other Everyday Challenges for Elementary-Age Children with High-Functioning Autism

The Hidden Curriculum of Getting and Keeping a Job: Navigating the Social Landscape of Employment: A Guide for Individuals With Autism Spectrum and Other Social-Cognitive Challenges

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://www.aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: The Incredible-5 Point Scale

Grades: Pre-K to 12+

Description: The Incredible 5-Point Scale is a visual tool that can be combined with other resources, such as *A 5 is Against the Law* or *When My Worries Get Too Big*, to teach self-awareness and management.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://www.aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Language for Theory of Mind® Software

Grades: 3 to 12

Description: This software program helps students learn verbs of perception and intention needed to understand what others can or cannot perceive.

Vendor/Company: Attainment Company <http://www.attainmentcompany.com>

Resource: Linguisystems®

Grades: Pre-K to 12+

Description: Offers a variety of products to address social skills, including: Autism & PDD Adolescent Social Skills Lesson Books, Autism & PDD Picture Stories Series, Early Social Behavior Books, Social Language Development, Spotlight for Figurative Language, Spotlight on Social Skills, TheraLink Social Language. For more resources, visit vendor online.

Vendor/Company: Pro-Ed, Inc. <http://www.proedinc.com>

Resource: Model Me Kids® Videos for Modeling Social Skills

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Curriculum includes teaching manuals, lesson plans, worksheets, activities, DVDs, progress monitoring, reinforcement charts, and home-school communication. *Model Me Organization & Motivation™, Model Me Tips & Tricks™, Model Me Confidence & Bullying Prevention™, Time for School™, Model Me Conversation Cues®, Model Me Friendship™*

Vendor/Company: Model Me Kids® <http://www.modelmekids.com>

Resource: Navigating the Social World

Grades: 4 to 12+

Description: Curriculum that teaches communication skills, coping strategies, self-awareness of stress or anxiety, and abstract thinking.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>

Resource: No More Victims: Protecting Those with Autism from Cyber Bullying, Internet Predators, and Scams

Grades: 6 to 12

Description: Due to difficulty with perspective taking, isolation, increased time online, and difficulty with assertive communication, this manual focuses on three areas of concern: cyber bullying, online sexual predators, and Internet scams.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>
<http://www.jedbaker.com/books.htm>

Resource: PECS™

Grades: Pre-K to 12+

Description: An evidence-based practice for communication that is designed to teach individuals to communicate in a social context. Teaches individuals to physically exchange visuals, expand spontaneous interactions, discriminate pictures, build language and sentence structure, and communicate responses.

Vendor/Company: PECS™ <http://www.pecsusa.com/>

Resource: Preparing for Life-The Complete Guide for Transitioning to Adulthood for Those with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Resource that addresses perspective taking, non-verbal communication, conversational skills, goal setting, and stress management.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>
<http://www.jedbaker.com/books.htm>

Resource: Quest Program I Social Skills Curriculum for Elementary School Students with Autism

Grades: 1 to 5

Description: Helps students acquire social and pragmatic skills by combining written instruction with games, stories, and role playing.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>

Resource: Quest Program II Social Skills Curriculum for Middle School Students with Autism

Grades: 6 to 8

Description: This 6-unit program will help students to acquire social and pragmatic skills by combining written instruction with games, activities, and social interaction.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>

Resource: Skillstreaming

Grades: Pre-K to 12+

Description: A four-part training approach that includes modeling, role-playing, performance feedback, and generalization. Includes books, CDs, and printable materials. Available in different levels.

Vendor/Company: Skillstreaming <http://www.skillstreaming.com>

Resource: Social Engagement & the Steps to Being Social: A Practical Guide for Teaching Social Skills to Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Grades: Preschool to 12+

Description: A model to guide assessment and intervention across severity levels and age groups for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Breaks down social skills into a series of steps with sub-skills. Includes an assessment.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons <http://fhautism.com/>

Resource: The PEERS® Curriculum for School-Based Professionals

Grades: 7 to 12

Description: A sixteen-week program including lesson plans that contain concrete rules and steps, corresponding homework assignments, and more

Vendor/Company: Routledge <https://www.routledge.com/>

Resource: The Science of Making Friends: Helping Socially Challenged Teens and Young Adults

Grades: 7 to 12+

Description: Includes concrete rules and steps of social etiquette, to assist in improving conversational skills, expand social opportunities, and develop strategies for handling peer rejection.

Vendor/Company: Wile: Jossey-Bass <http://www.wiley.com/>

Resource: The Social Compass Curriculum

Grades: 4 to 8

Description: A story-based intervention package that includes 24 lessons for use in the classroom. Includes use of social narratives, visuals, role-play, and take-home worksheets.

Vendor/Company: Brookes Publishing <http://www.brookespublishing.com/>

Resource: Social Competence Intervention

Grades: K to 12

Description: Evidence based. Promotes the development, maintenance, and generalization of social skills, including initiating interactions, responding to others, emotional recognition, turn taking in conversation, problem solving, and maintaining reciprocity. Uses a scaffolding method of instruction.

Vendor/Company: The Center for Social and Behavioral Competence
<https://education.missouri.edu/sci/>

Resource: The Social Express

Grades: Pre-K to 12

Description: Based on animated interactive webisodes that encourage students to practice real-life social interactions. Works on eight target skills: Self-Management, Conflict Resolution, Coping Strategies, Group Participation, Attentive Listening, Relationship Management, Non-verbal Communication, and Conversations. Offers on-line and offline activities.

Vendor/Company: The Social Express <http://thesocialexpress.com/what-is-the-social-express/social-express-pro/>

Resource: Social Skills Picture Book

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Two books designed for individuals with social challenges. Photos of a variety of social situations demonstrate the correct and incorrect ways to interact in different circumstances and illustrate the positive and negative consequences of both ways of interacting.

Social Skills Picture Book and *Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond*

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>
<http://www.jedbaker.com/books.htm>

Resource: Social Thinking® Resources

Grades: Pre-K+

Description: We Thinkers! Vol I

The We Thinkers curriculum is designed to help young learners develop the skills they need to be flexible social thinkers and social problem solvers.

We Thinkers! Vol II

Continues to present and teach core concepts needed to be flexible and social thinkers

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>

Resource: Social Thinking® Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME

Grades: K to 12

Description: Provides core concepts of Social Thinking® and a foundation for other curriculum, like Superflex®

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>

Resource: Social Thinking® Think Social

Grades: K to 12

Description: Provides step-by-step methods for teaching the core concepts of Social Thinking®

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>

Resource: Social Thinking® You are a Social Detective

Grades: K to 5

Description: Visual book curriculum that teaches the concepts and vocabulary related to Social Thinking®. Available in French and Spanish.

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>

Resource: Social Thinking® & Me

Grades: 5 to 8

Description: Presents and teaches core Social Thinking® vocabulary and concepts.

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>

Resource: Social Skills Training

Grades: 5 to 12+

Description: This curriculum presents social skills with printable handouts and activity sheets to demonstrate, practice, and reinforce skills in the classroom and at home. Peer acceptance and sensitivity training programs are also included.

Vendor/Company: Future Horizons, Inc. <http://fhautism.com>
<http://www.jedbaker.com/books.htm>

Resource: S.O.S. Social Skills in Our Schools

Grades: 5 to 12+

Description: Social skills curriculum that helps students with autism learn correct social skills and cultivates understanding and acceptance with typical peers and school staff.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://www.aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: The Social Times Curriculum

Grades: 3 to 8

Description: Uses a magazine format to teach social cognition and emotional regulation skills.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: STAR® Autism Support

Grades: K to 12+

Description: Programs that are designed specifically for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Uses ABA (applied behavior analysis) instructional

methods of discrete trial training and pivotal response to teach functional routines and social skills. Includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems, and a curriculum-based assessment.

Vendor/Company: STAR® Autism Support <http://starautismsupport.com>

Resource: Superheroes Social Skills

Grades: K to 6

Description: Evidence based. Teaches students to interact appropriately with peers and adults. Students practice skills in step by step role plays, social games, and in generalized settings at home and school.

Vendor/Company: Tough Kid <http://www.toughkid.com>

Resource: Super Skills: A Social Skills Group Program for Children with High-Functioning Autism and Related Challenges

Grades: 1 to 6

Description: The Curriculum is based on 30 structured lessons in 4 areas of social skills: Fundamental skills, social initiation skills, getting along with others, and social response skills.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Talk with Me

Grades: 1 to 12+

Description: A Step by Step Conversation Framework for Teaching Conversational Balance and Fluency. This Framework breaks down the elements of a conversation which must be mastered in order to be proficient at carrying out conversations.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: Teach Me Language

Grades: 1 to 12+

Description: Program is designed to be used by parents or therapists as part of a therapy program to teach social language skills. Requires visual learning skills and the ability to follow simple directions

Vendor/Company: Different Learning

[http://www.difflearn.com/product/Teach Me Language/teaching language conversation](http://www.difflearn.com/product/Teach_Me_Language/teaching_language_conversation)

Resource: Teaching Social Skills Through Sketch Comedy and Improv Games

Grades: K to 12

Description: Teaches social skills using improve comedy and sketch writing. Games and group exercises help develop social awareness, confidence, and joint attention.

Vendor/Company: Jessica Kingsley Publishers <http://jkp.com>

Resource: TeachTown®

Grades: Pre-K to 3

Description: Designed for children ages 2 to 7. Uses research and evidence-based practices, such as ABA (applied behavior analysis), to teach a wide range of meaningful skills, including literacy. Additional social skills activities are available.

Vendor/Company: TeachTown® <http://web.teachtown.com>

Resource: Why Didn't They Just Say That? PEERspective – A Complete Curriculum

Grades: 9 to 12

Description: This is a complete curriculum designed to be a high school class. It teaches self-awareness, self-acceptance, relationship building, conflict resolution, managing stress management and wellness, and many other topics that have lifelong impact on students' lives.

Vendor/Company: AAPC Publishing <http://aapcpublishing.net/>

Resource: The Zones of Regulation®

Grades: Pre K to 12+

Description: This curriculum teaches students how to regulate their action and increase self-control and problem-solving abilities.

Vendor/Company: Social Thinking® <https://www.socialthinking.com>