SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Social Skills Development is designed to help children and adolescents with social cognitive challenges build social communication. Using the *Social Thinking Treatment model* developed by Michelle Garcia Winner, therapists teach children and teens the nuances of social communication and provide caregivers with strategies to build upon and reinforce their children's Social Thinking ability.

Social Thinking is an intuitive process; however, for many individuals this process isn't natural, and treatment is needed to strengthen social interaction.

HOW DOES SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORK?

- Builds specific thinking strategies that occur prior to interaction
- Promotes the ability to recognize social cues
- Teaches specific social skills to use with the "social thinking" strategies

- Teaches the individual to consciously think about the thoughts, emotions, and needs of those with whom they interact, whether with friends, in an email, at the grocery store, in the classroom, etc.

HOW LONG DOES TREATMENT LAST?

The typical treatment time will be 3-6 hours per week for 36 weeks. However, treatment varies based on the needs of each individual child and recommendations of a licensed psychologist.

GOALS OF SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Regulating emotions and behaviors
- Matching communication to setting
- Forming social connections and friendships
- Improving academic outcomes

- Recognizing and using body language and non-verbal communication signals
- Increasing confidence/self-esteem
- Transferring "social thinking" teaching techniques to families and caregivers

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

As a BHRS program, services must meet medical necessity criteria as established by the state of PA and be prescribed by a licensed psychologist. Services must be authorized by Medical Assistance, your county's Managed Care Organization, or private insurance.

Barber Behavioral Health Institute

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BARBER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INSTITUTE:

Erie: 814-878-5945
Warren: 814-726-8440
Allegheny: 412-772-6962