



Communication Skills

Communication involves the process of sending and receiving information. This information includes sharing ideas, thoughts and feelings. Reciprocal communication always occurs between two or more people. The way the message is imparted and received depends on the way you speak and express yourself, both verbally and non-verbally using cues such as body language.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) typically have difficulties in sending a message in the correct way. Children may also have difficulty receiving and interpreting the messages and body language.

The iMsocial™ program addresses a range of communication skills from the seemingly simple communication of 'saying hello', to the more complicated communication skills like 'joining in a conversation' or 'interrupting a conversation'. Teaching explicit communication skills helps children to increase the process and success of sending and receiving information.

However, iMsocial™ does not focus solely on teaching the technical part of the communication skill, it also provides the reasoning and need for the skill.

References

Dodd, S. (2005), *Understanding Autism*. Marrickville: Elsevier, pp. 54-55.

Bauminger, N. (2002), 'The facilitation of Social-Emotional Understanding and Social Interaction in High-Functioning Children with Autism: Intervention outcomes', *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 32:4, pp. 284-285.