

HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AT HOME

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Nowadays the psychological community is booming with another great concept, the emergence of Social Intelligence as proposed by Daniel Goleman same author who made waves when he presented the idea of Emotional Intelligence. Whereas, EQ focuses on the individual, SQ, on the other hand enforces what we know about the importance of interpersonal relations primarily that of Social Awareness and Social Facilitation or Relationship Management. Social Awareness primarily deals with instantaneous sensing of another's state inner state of being, understanding others' feelings and thoughts, and recognizing complicated situations. Relationship management on the other hand focuses on building on social awareness to develop smooth relationships with others including importance of non-verbal communication, self-presentation, influence and concern.

Here are some ideas to help your child develop interpersonal skills at home. The activities are geared toward learning a particular element of Social Intelligence.

Name of Activity: Guess Who

Skill/s Developed: Social Awareness particularly Social Cognition

Age Level: suitable for children 4 and up

Materials Needed: materials needed by different community helpers in their work, bag/basket to hold the different items

Directions: Have your family gathered in a circle. One by one have each pick an item from the basket. Allow some minutes for them to think of a way to show who their special character through gestures. When the person is over presenting the character, the rest of the family members guess who he/she is.

This simple yet powerful activity encourages children to know how the social world works. It is also ideal for developing non-verbal communication skills.

Variation: Help your young child learn more about the world by making *prop boxes* at home to play with. Prop boxes are specially themed boxes that includes materials for pretend play related to the theme. An example of a Day at the Beach prop box would include a towel, a bathing suit, old containers of tanning lotion, sunglasses, wide brim hat. Be creative and think of other themes that would introduce your child to the world around them.

Name of Activity: Retell it to me

Skill/s Developed: Social Awareness particularly Attunement (listening with full receptivity)

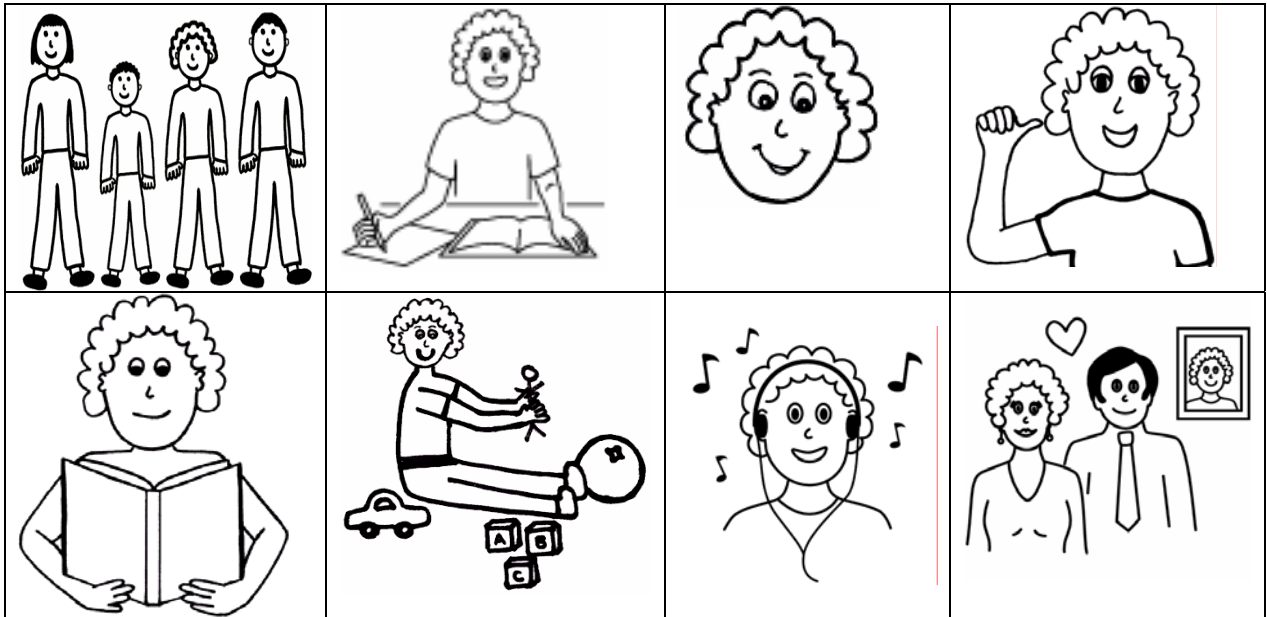
Age Level: suitable for children 3 and up

Materials Needed: picture cards courtesy of www.dotolearn.com (for more pictures log on to their website)

Directions: Make a unique story using the picture cards below. After presenting the story to your child ask your child to retell the story to you. Remember to make the story less complicated for younger children. Start with 3 story lines and progress from there if you

think your child can retell longer stories. The idea is to help your child learn to listen attentively to what was said and to be able to repeat the ideas presented.

Variation: You can also use photocopied pages of storybooks and paste them in card board boxes that your young child can play with at his/her spare time. It's a good tool too to develop language skills.



Name of Activity: Children around the world

Skill/s Developed: Relationship Management particularly developing concern

Age Level: suitable for children 3 and up

Materials Needed: cut outs of children doing different activities (preferably children from different nations), colored paper, stapler, glue

Directions: Collect pictures of children around the world. Help your child make a booklet using different colored papers stapled together at the side. Have your child paste the cut-outs per page and help him/her make a story about what the child is doing in the picture. You can also point out relevant facts about the child like where he/she is living and what their nationality is.

Variation: Read the Book: s Our Beautiful World (Indahnya Duniaku), I am from Indonesia (Aku Anak Indonesia), I love Indonesia (Aku Cinta Indonesia) and/or Our Wonderful World (Ajaibnya Duniaku) published by Joy to Learn. For more info about these books log on to www.wysiwyg-joytolearn.co.id.

