

Spotlight On: Social Skills Communication Domains

Need for Social Skills Training

55%

58%

Social skills training is one of the most consistently identified needs, with 55% of adolescents and 58% of adults with autism living in PA not receiving adequate training.*

**2011 ASERT PA Autism Needs Assessment*

Choosing Skills to Target

- Skills needed for 1:1 interactions are more easily mastered than skills for group interactions. Start with basic interactions and build from there.
- There are four main communication domains (see diagram below). Basic skills are needed as a foundation for more sophisticated skills within, and across, domains.
- Consider social validity. The individual should feel the skill will be helpful for them in achieving their social goals.
- Consider ecological validity. Skills should be effective for the individuals' current circumstances.

Four Main Social Communication Domains



Basic Interaction Skills

Eye contact, greeting others



Social Communication Mechanics

Active listening, verbal turn taking



Conflict Resolution Skills

Respecting the opinion of others, negotiating



Group Dynamics

Engaging the group, assess changing contingencies