

Skill Area(s):
 Feelings-Emotions
 Conversation Skills
 Non-verbal language
 Perspective Taking

The Social Skills Picture Book, by Jed Baker, Ph.D.

Level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

Goal: to help children learn social skills necessary for effective communication.

Materials needed: The Social Skills Picture Book, Jed Baker, Ph.D. (You can check this out from the Autism Resource Specialist or find it on-line through Future Horizons, Inc. They also sell this at the Autism Book Store, www.autismshop.com)

Activity:

Use some of the previous more basic lessons discussing feelings/emotions, perspective taking, and conversation skills before using this book. This book is divided into part one and part two. Part one includes some really good information on the nature of autism, teaching social skills, information about social skill picture stories, and how to make your own social skills picture stories. Part two is the actual social skill picture stories, which include full color photos with real people. Part two is broken into three main areas, which are, communication related skills, play related skills, and emotion related skills. To use this book you need to know these four stages:

1. Initial instruction
2. Role-playing the skill
3. Reviewing the skill steps with corrective feedback
4. Generalization

These are the stages that the author suggests using to teach the children. The first three stages can be repeated sequentially many times. What you would do with this book is to look up the skill or skills you want to target. Then use the picture story related to that topic to help the children learn the language that goes along with the skill (the words that they could use) and what it looks like (visual picture). Use the stages above to teach it to them, and then follow through with their teachers and parents to help with the generalization of these skills.

Follow-up Activity:

- Read the section on how to make your own social skills picture stories. You could either do this during your group time or as a home activity or both.