

Skill Area(s):
 Conversation Skills
 Perspective Taking

Proverbial Wisdom Junior

Level: intermediate, advanced

Goal: to help children understand literal versus non-literal language by learning about and interpreting proverbs.

Materials needed: Proverbial Wisdom Junior Game and at least 4 players (can play with up to 12 players). This game is appropriate for developmental ages 7 and up.

Activity:

Before playing this game and expecting the children to understand it make sure you have taught them about literal versus non-literal language. This can be a very difficult area for children with social-cognitive deficits because they are usually very literal and do not understand why you would say one thing to mean another. So teaching in this area will help them to become familiar with these commonly used sayings and communicate more effectively with others.

A proverb is a short popular saying expressing an obvious truth (Webster's New World Dictionary). Teach the children that proverbs are based on collective folk wisdom and have been among us for thousands of years as guidelines for life. Some of them are delightfully familiar reminders of childhood and very often-convenient conversational shorthand. Sometimes explaining the history of the proverbs helps children who are very literal understand the proverbs better because they see more of the purpose behind what is being said. With this game children will learn new proverbs and gain understanding of classic proverbs, idioms, and cliches.

Proverbial Wisdom Junior contains 3 different types of cards (blue sketch cards, green definition cards, and purple picture cards). Each one has a proverb on it. There is a spinner included that determines the color of card that the player will select on his or her turn. If you have a large group you can divide into teams. The object of the game is to be the first team to collect three blue sketch cards, three green definition cards, and three purple picture cards. To do this you must solve each card correctly. If you do not solve the card correctly you do not get to collect the card for your team.

This game is a very fun way to teach proverbs and idioms. It's a fast pace so children will not get bored. The website for this game is www.proverbialwisdom.com.