Evidence Based Practice Training:

Social Skills Training (SST)

Adapted from Sam, A., & AFIRM Team. (2015). Social Skills Training. Chapel Hill, NC: National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder, FPG Child Development Center, University of North Carolina. <u>https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/social-skills-training</u>





What is CAPTAIN

The California Autism Professional Training And Information Network (CAPTAIN) is an interagency network developed to support the understanding and use of evidence based practices (EBPs) for individuals with Autism across the state of California.





What is CAPTAIN

Marin County SELPA in partnership with CAPTAIN, are members of the Statewide System of Support as the Special Education Content Lead for Autism. This project is funded by the California Department of Education

and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.











Levels of Professional Development to Reach Implementation







Before We Begin...

Please complete the **Pre-Training Survey** sent to your email





Core Components Learning Objectives

- Describe Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs)

- What is Social Skills Training (SST)?
- Structure and Format
- Making Plans
- Getting Started
- Problem Solving- Data
- Resources





What are Evidence Based Practices?



NCAEP definition of an EBP:

"Focused intervention practices that have evidence of efficacy in promoting positive outcomes for learners with ASD."

Steinbrenner, J. R., Hume, K., Odom, S. L., Morin, K. L., Nowell, S. W., Tomaszewski, B., Szendrey, S., McIntyre, N. S., Yücesoy-Özkan, S., & Savage, M. N. (2020). Evidence-based practices for children, youth, and young adults with Autism. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice Review Team.





Evidence Based Practice Matrix (28 EBPs)

Table 3.7 Matrix of evidence-based practices, outcomes, and age categories

Evidence-Based	Ac Pre-	ader acad	nic/ emic	Ad Se	laptiv elf-he	ve/ elp	In	allen terfe ehav	ging/ ring ior	Co	ogniti	ive		ommi catio			Joint			Menta healt		ı	Moto	or		Play			Schoo		det	Self- ermina	ation		Socia	ıl	Vo	catio	nal
Practices See Table 3.1 to link abbreviations to EBPs	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-22 years
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VS																																							

California Autism Professional Training and Information Network

AVAILABLE ON CAPTAIN WEBSITE WWW.captain.ca.gov



Selecting EBPs

Before beginning a new practice with a learner, it is important to follow four planning steps

- 1. Identify the behavior
- 2. Collect baseline data on the behavior
- 3. Establish an observable and measurable goal
- 4. Choose an EBP
 - Consider the child and family characteristics
 - Consider the teacher and team characteristics
 - Consider other available resources





Selecting an EBP Checklist

				CHE
	Selecting ar	n EBP Checklist	AFIRM	1.
¥E.	Observer(s):	Date/Time:		2.
ξΞ.	Target Goal/Behavior/Skill (short): Directions: Complete this checklist (ASD.	to select an appropriate practice to use with	the learner with	IDEN
				Child
IDENTIFY	TARGET GOAL/BEHAVIOR/	/SKILL:		Stude
				Has
COLLECT SHEET):	BASELINE DATA (OR USE S	ELECTING AN EBP DATA COL	LECTION	Teac
	Frequency/Duration		Total	Know
			Total	
				Clue
				Goal
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DEFINE /		SURABLE IEP GOAL:	Selecting an EPP	Clue Goal Othe Curre

AFIRM Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules	Selecting an EBP Checklist For more information, please visit: <u>https://afrm.fpg.unc.edu/</u>
CHECK ANNUAL GOAL FOR:	
1. Context (When/Antecedent)	🗆 Yes 🔷 No
 Target goal/behavior/skill (What/Behavior perform) 	or the learner is to 🛛 Yes 🗌 No
Mastery (How/Criterion for learner prog	ress/mastery Yes No
IDENTIFY CHARACTERISTICS, CLUES, A Child and Family Characteristics	ND RESOURCES:
Student strengths:	Student challenges:
staten strengtis.	Statient challenges.
Has worked before (home/school):	Has not worked before (home/school):
Teacher/Team Characteristics	
Knowledge level:	Successfully used EBPs:
Clues found in the IEP Goal	
Goal domain:	Potential EBPs (Refer to the Domain Matrix):
Other Resources	l
Current student supports:	Available equipment:
Team members:	Additional learning experiences:
	sed toolgoest (etc) Selecting an EBP AVII/A Team, 2020-R Page 2 of 3 Page 2 of 3

RESOURCES & MODULES		For more information, please visit: https://afirm.fpg.unc
SELECT AN EBP:		
IF APPLICABLE, IDENTI SELECTED EBP:	FY ADDITIONALS EBF	PS TO BE USED WITH THE
Reinforcement (R+)	Prompting (PP)	□ Modeling (MD)
Task Analysis (TA)	Time Delay (TD)	Visual Supports (VS)
Functional Behavior	□	0

Selecting an EBP Checklist

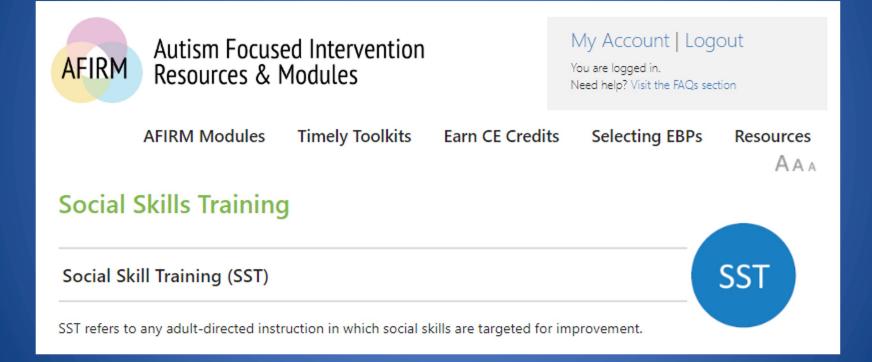
Autism Focused Intervention

ADDITIONAL NOTES:		





High Quality Training: <u>Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules (AFIRM)</u> Designed to help you learn the step-by-step process of planning for, using, and monitoring EBPs with learners with Autism from birth to 22 years of age







What is Social Skills Training (SST)

Social skills training refers to any adultdirected instruction in which social skills are targeted for improvement.

SST typically occurs in either a group or individual format, and may also include facilitated practice in classroom settings.

SST sometimes may co-occur with peer-based instruction and intervention (PBII) or some related use of peer models or tutors to support practice of targeted skills.





	Name of EBP		Social Skills	Training (SS	БТ)											
	Definition of El	BP	Social Skills Training (SST) is group or individual instruction designed to teach learners ways to appropriately and successfully participate in their interactions with others. This may include relationships with peers, family, co-workers, community members, and romantic partners. Most instructional sessions include direct instruction of basic concepts, role-play or practice, and feedbact to help learners acquire and practice communication, play, or social skills to promote positive interactions with others. SST techniques often include other EBPs such as reinforcement, modeling, prompting, cognitive strategy interventions, social narratives, scripting, and visual supports.													
			Age Ranges													
	Outcome Area	•	0-2 Toddlers	3-5 Preschoolers	6-11 Elementary School	12-14 Middle School	15-18 High School	19-22 Young Adults								
		Communication	1	1	1	1	1									
RACTICE	\overline{a}	Social	1	1	1	1	1	1								
	¥	Joint attention														
		Play	1	1	1	1	1									
		Cognitive		1	1	1										
		School readiness			1	1										
		Academic/ Pre-academic														
		Adaptive/ self-help			1	1	1									
		Challenging/ Interfering behavior		1	1	1	1									
	ழு	Vocational														
		Motor														
	(Find	Mental health			1	1	1									
	G 23 3	Self- determination			1	1										







Why do we use SST? Learners with ASD often struggle with social impairments.

Understanding the back-and-forth of a social interaction is difficult for learners with ASD

Social skills training can be used to address foundational social skills such as imitation, initiating interactions, play skills, and understanding and regulating emotions.





AFIRM Video Examples

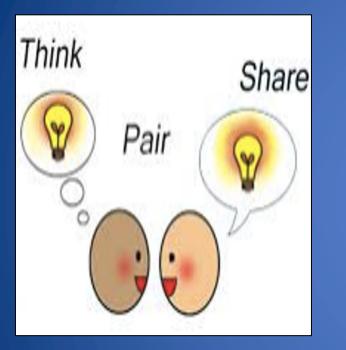
AFIRM Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules







Think - Pair - Share



- Think about one student with whom you work that you believe would benefit from SST.
- How is the student struggling?
- What 1-2 goals would you consider addressing?
- Use SST Goals Handout as needed to determine your answer (link on next slide)





Social Skills Training

AFIRM

Autism Focused Intervention

Resources & Modules

---SST Goals---

Social skills training can target a variety of goals related to improving social skills. Here are some of the major categories and sub-topics of social skills goals that have been targeted through social skills training. Note that some of these skills could be placed in more than one category.

> For more information visit: www.afirm.fpg.unc.edu

Foundational skills	Imitation Paying attention Following instructions Knowing own and other's name; Recognizing own and other's
Initiation of Interactions	belongings; Knowing own and other's gender - Seeking play partners - Introducing self/greeting - Peer entry and exit skills - Showing interest in others
Maintaining interactions	Playing cooperatively Taking turns Sharing Choosing the same friend Solving a problem together
Other play skills	Developing friendship networks Parallel play Partner/pretend play Appropriate use of play stations Good sportsmanship
Language and Communication	Question-asking Expressing own preferences Ustening to one another Conversation skills Interpreting non-literal language Choosing topics that interest others Giving compliments Asking for help
Understanding and Regulating Emotions	Recognizing emotions on faces Recognizing own and other's feelings Tolerating frustration and change
Other related social communication skills	Changing bad reputations Handling teasing, bullying, and arguments Interest expansion Perspective-taking and theory of mind skills

List of Social Skills Goals

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1 3ZttdWC-PDKCIj360uXalU7DLbYhDZiU/ view?usp=sharing





How Does SST Help?

- Increases social competency
- Provides opportunity for skills to generalize outside of teaching session
 - This may include across settings, people, with peers and family members
- Provides a clear structure and systematic way to teach:
 Skills needed to complete everyday activities
 Skills needed to participate in various groups or activities





Instructional Strategies

SST includes Direct Instruction, Role Plays, Facilitated Practice with Feedback and often includes many of these EBPs for Autism:

- Modeling
- Video Modeling
- Prompting
- Reinforcement
- Visual Cues
- Social Narratives
- Peer-Based Instruction & Intervention





Who Can Participate?

SST can be 1:1 or small group



 SST can be "like" needs or can have differing ability levels







Who Can Implement SST?

- Teachers
- Speech- Language Pathologists
- Parents
- Paraprofessionals
- Counselors
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Others???







Where Can SST Be Used?

- School
- Home
- Clinics
- Classrooms
- Community
- Others???











PEERS

Manualized Intervention Meeting Criteria for EBPs (MIMC)

"Interventions that clearly fit the EBP categorical definitions but had themselves enough evidence to be classified as an EBP."

MIMCs are operationally defined as interventions that:

a) are manualized,

b) have unique features that create an intervention identity, and

c) share common features with other practices grouped within the superordinate EBP classification.

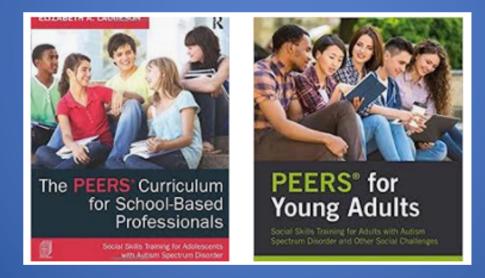






PEERS is a MIMC

 PEERS is the only curriculum that has been validated with students with Autism









Practice with Feedback



Your student with Autism can sometimes become aggressive with other students out on the playground. The student will push others down when they are in his way, yell at peers when he doesn't like the game they chose to play and/or take play equipment away preventing others from playing the game or being able to take a turn.

- With what skill is the student struggling?
- What goal(s) could be the focus of SST?
- How and where could SST take place and with whom?





Example- Lunch Buddies

Student sits alone at lunch table and wanders the perimeter of the school during lunch. Student has a hard time answering questions asked by other students and doesn't initiate any conversations.

Ex.1 – Peers of the student want to be a lunch buddy. The peers sit with the student, ask questions and attempt to get the student to participate in any games/activities they play.

Ex.2 – Peers of the student want to be a lunch buddy. SLP shares with the peers specific ways to get the students attention before asking questions. SLP also works 1:1 with student 2x a week on how to answer questions peers may ask and to understand the rules of various games peers are playing.





Plan!!! Use the AFIRM Planning Guide

Now you are ready to start...

Step 1: SST Planning

The planning step explains initial steps and considerations involved to prepare for and develop a training plan for a learner with ASD.

1.1 Determine if training will be 1-on-1 or a group

Decide if the training will be conducted in an individual or group format based upon various factors including the salis and developmental level of the learner with ASD, the availability of the trainer, availability of space, and scheduling constraints.

1.2 Select peers for participation

To select peers for participation, consider if the grade level and needs of other potential participants. Also, determine if peer models will be included.

1.3 Conduct social skills assessment

Use informal and/or formal assessment methods to obtain more information about a learner's current social competence as well as areas of need.

1.4 Select content of lessons

Consider the needs of the learner with ASD and group members (if a group format was selected). Remember large topics of instruction might include underlying components to the skill that will need to be addressed as well.

1.5 Determine format structure

SST should have a common format for each session. At a minimum, the lesson format should include a check in, introduction and teaching of a new skill, practice of the new skill, feedback, and opportunities to practice new skill outside of lesson format.

1.6 Select instructional strategies to use

A variety of instructional strategies can be used to teach social skills including direction instruction of skills, modeling, video modeling, role play, prompting, reinforcement, facilitated practice, and use of visual cues.

1.7 Prepare materials

Before you begin social skills training, you will need to prepare the materials. If you have selected any curriculum to support instruction, you will need to obtain those materials.



Step 1: SST Planning (continued)

1.8 Prepare instructors and adults to assist with training

Before beginning to use SST make sure all adults who will be leaders are familiar with the lesson plans and the reward system planned for participants.

1.9 Determine meeting place and schedule

A meeting time and place for the training needs to be selected that is convenient for both the learners with ASD, other members, and the leader.

The SST Planning Worksheet in the Resource section will help you plan for SST.

Step 2: Using SST

This step describes the process of using social skills training.

2.1 Implement the training as planned

Refer back to the plan for instruction or the Planning Worksheet. Consider creating session guides to plan for individual lessons.

The Session Guide in the Resource section will help you plan for specific training sessions.

2.2 Reinforce learner use of target skills

Reinforce learner's use of new target skills or behaviors. Select items or activities that are reinforcing to the learner with ASD.

2.3 Support generalization of target skills

Make a plan to support a learner in generalizing skills learning in the training session to other settings, people, and activities.

2.4 Provide support to peer models if applicable

Adult leaders should provide time for peers to become familiar with the learner with ASD, review the goals and format of the training session with peers, and provide specific suggestions of what is expected from peer.

STEP-BY-STEP

Step 3: Monitoring SST

The following process describes how the use of social skills training can be monitored and how to adjust your plan based on the data.

3.1 Collect data on learner use of target skills

Team members should collect data on target skills and behaviors. Use event recording to collect frequency data at every instance the behavior occurs. When using a group format for SST, consider collecting data using one data form.

The Event Recording Form in the Resource Section will help you monitor behaviors with low frequency.

The Group Data Form in the Resource Section will help you collect data on multiple learners.

3.2 Determine next steps based on learner progress

If a learner is making progress based upon data collected, team members should continue to use SST and consider using it to address additional goals.

If the target skill or behavior is not increasing, ask yourself the following questions:

- · Is the target skill or behavior well defined?
- Is the target skill or behavior measurable and observable?
- Has enough time been devoted to using SST?
- · Was SST used with fidelity? (Use the SST Implementation Checklist to determine fidelity.)
- Is a consistent format used for each session?
- · Are instructional strategies being used consistently?
- · Are reinforcers used that are motivating to the learner?

If these issues have been addressed and the learner with ASD continues not to show progress, consider selecting a different evidence-based practice to use with the learner with ASD.





Items on the Planning Form What to consider:

1.1 Determine if training will be 1-on-1 or a group

Decide if the training will be conducted in an individual or group format based upon various factors including the skills and developmental level of the learner with ASD, the availability of the trainer, availability of space, and scheduling constraints.

1.2 Select peers for participation

To select peers for participation, consider if the grade level and needs of other potential participants. Also, determine if peer models will be included.

1.3 Conduct social skills assessment

Use informal and/or formal assessment methods to obtain more information about a learner's current social competence as well as areas of need.







Assessment methods may include:



- Review of records and previous assessments. In particular, one source of information to explore is previous speech-language assessments when pragmatic language is assessed. Other assessments such as those addressing cognitive and academic functioning, may provide some insight into the capabilities of the learner. Finally, assessments of adaptive behavior may include information about social skills.
- Interviews with parents and current or recent providers including speech language pathologists, general education teachers, special education teachers, and counselors.
- Talking with the learner
- Observations
- Use of formal assessment tools. Some examples include: Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS),¹⁹ Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Second Edition (VABS-II),²⁰ Test of Pragmatic Language – Second Edition (TOPL-2)²¹
- Completion of skill inventories







Items on the Planning Form What to consider:

1.4 Select content of lessons

Consider the needs of the learner with ASD and group members (if a group format was selected). Remember large topics of instruction might include underlying components to the skill that will need to be addressed as well.

1.5 Determine format structure

SST should have a common format for each session. At a minimum, the lesson format should include a check in, introduction and teaching of a new skill, practice of the new skill, feedback, and opportunities to practice new skill outside of lesson format.

1.6 Select instructional strategies to use

A variety of instructional strategies can be used to teach social skills including direction instruction of skills, modeling, video modeling, role play, prompting, reinforcement, facilitated practice, and use of visual cues.







Common Format for Every Session*

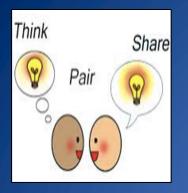
- Check In/Warm Up
- Introduction and teaching of new skill
- Modeling
- Practice
- Feedback
- Generalization/Opportunity to practice outside lesson format

*See SST AFIRM module for description of each of these components









Think-Pair-Share Practice with Feedback Generalization

One downfall of social skills instruction is often that learners do not generalize those skills outside of the training setting to other settings, people, and activities.

Think of a student who is now able to greet others upon arrival to the Social Skills group:

How might you generalize this new skill?
Write down the steps you would take to do this.
Your trainer will discuss this plan with you





Select Instructional Strategies to Use

A variety of instructional strategies can be used to teach social skills such as:

- direct instruction of skills
- modeling / video-modeling
- role-play
- prompting
- reinforcement
- visual cue/supports
- social narratives (Social Stories/Power Cards)
- facilitated practice/practice with feedback,
- use of a concept mastery routine
- practicing with trained peers (PBII)







Items on the Planning Form What to consider:

1.7 Prepare materials

Before you begin social skills training, you will need to prepare the materials. If you have selected any curriculum to support instruction, you will need to obtain those materials.

1.8 Prepare instructors and adults to assist with training

Before beginning to use SST make sure all adults who will be leaders are familiar with the lesson plans and the reward system planned for participants.

1.9 Determine meeting place and schedule

A meeting time and place for the training needs to be selected that is convenient for both the learners with ASD, other members, and the leader.



The SST Planning Worksheet in the Resource section will help you plan for SST.







Training Others to Support SST

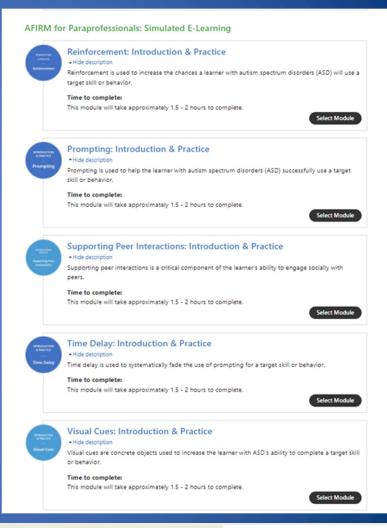
www.captain.ca.gov

Free Training Modules Just for Paraeducators



Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules

https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/afirm-modules







Social Skills Training (SST) ---Implementation Checklist----

	Observation	1	2	3	4
efore you 👘	Date				
start:	Observer's Initials				
	Step 1: Planning				
ave you	1.1 Determine if training will be 1-on-1 or a group	Γ			
	1.2 Select peer(s) for participation if applicable				
entified the havior	1.3 Conduct social skills assessment	┢	_	_	—
llected	1.4 Select content of lessons	┢		-	
seline data ough direct	1.5 Determine format structure				
servation	1.6 Select instructional strategies to use				
ablished a	1.7 Prepare materials				
al or outcome it clearly states	1.8 Prepare instructors and adults to assist with training				
en the	1.9 Determine meeting place and schedule				
havior will cur, what the	Step 2: Using				
get skill is, and withe team	2.1 Implement the training as planned				
know when	2.2 Reinforce learner(s) use of target skills				
skill is stered.	2.3 Support generalization of target skills to other settings/people/activities				
	2.4 Provide support to peer models if applicable				
ese is "no", refer	Step 3: Monitoring				
the "Selecting " section on the	3.1 Collect data on learner use of target skills				
website.	3.2 Determine next steps based on learner progress				

Use the Implementation Checklist to ensure fidelity!

AFIRM Authors Proceed Interview

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EBP







	Social Skills Training
AFIRM	SST Session Guide Learner's Name: Date/Time: Observer(s):
Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules	Target Behavior(s):

Session Guide:

It might be helpful to plan specifically for each session. The session guide below provides a starting point.

Item	Training plan	status	Changes/notes
Date		0	
Session Topic			
Skills addressed		0	
Content			
Structure			
Behavior management		•	
Instructional strategies			
Materials needed			

Use the Session Guide to Help You Plan!

For more information visit: www.afirm.fpg.unc.edu





Monitor and Collect Data Group Recording Form

						1					Soc	ial S	Skills	s Tra	ainir	ng
	RM red Intervention Modules		Dat	te/Tim	ne:			T D		ou	D):	ore info	rmatio	n visit:	
Group Targe	et Skill:															
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Monitor and Collect Data Example: Event Recording Data

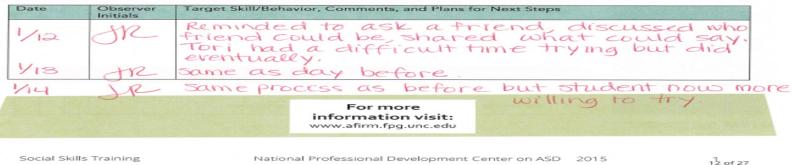


Event Recording:

Use event recording to monitor behaviors with low frequency.

Date	Target Behavior	Total
1/12	+	1
1/13	t	1
Viu	+ + +	3
15	+ + +	ß
1/16	+ + + + +	5
ショ	+ + + + + +	6

Anecdotal Notes:



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Monitoring Tips

- Look over the data collection sheets being presented
- Is the student making progress?
- Practice completing data sheets:
 Event recording
 Group data





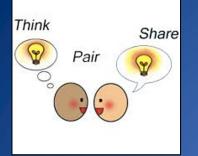
Monitoring Tips

When a student is not making progress ask these questions:

- Is the target behavior clearly defined?
- Is it measurable and observable?
- Is enough time being spent on teaching and practicing?
- Is it being conducted with fidelity?
- Is there consistency with the format and instructional strategies being used?
- Is the reinforcer motivating?







My Takeaways

1. What are 4 things you remember from today's training?

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1. What are 2 things you see yourself doing?

1. What is the 1 thing you can implement tomorrow?





Next Steps: Implement SST

Social Skills Training (SST) —Implementation Checklist	
Before you start:	Observation 1 2 3 4 Date Observer's Initials Step 1: Planning
Have you	Step 1: Planning 1.1 Determine if training will be 1-on-1 or a group 1.2 Select peer(s) for participation if applicable
behavior Collected baseline data through direct	1.3 Conduct social skills assessment 1.4 Select content of lessons 1.5 Determine format structure
 bservation Established a goal or outcome 	1.6 Select instructional strategies to use Image:
that clearly states when the behavior will occur, what the target skill is, and	1.9 Determine meeting place and schedule Step 2: Using 2.1 Implement the training as planned
how the team will know when the skill is mastered.	2.2 Reinforce learner(s) use of target skills 2.3 Support generalization of target skills to other settings/people/activities
If the answer to any of these is "no", refer to the "Selecting	2.4 Provide support to peer models if applicable Step 3: Monitoring 3.1 Collect data on learner use of target skills
EBPs" section on the website.	3.2 Determine next steps based on learner progress

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AFIRM Authory Pressand Intervention Resources and Modules





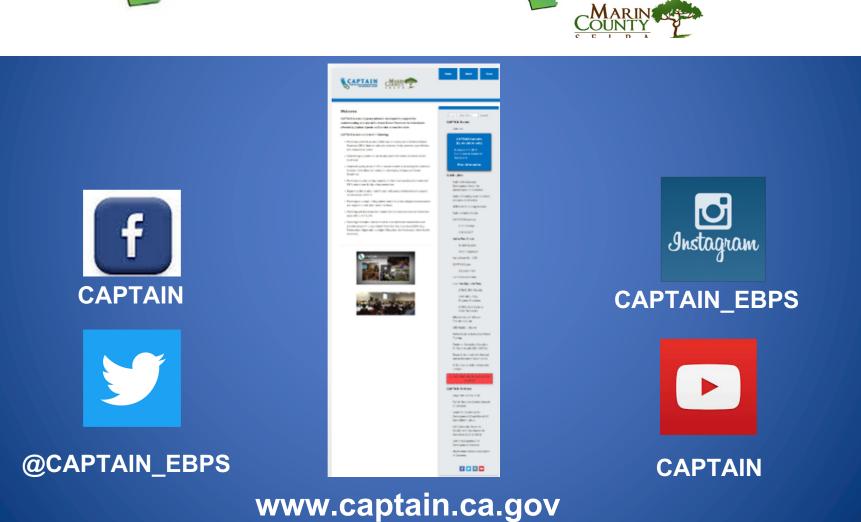
After the Training...

Please complete the **Post Training Survey** that will be sent to your email





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California Autism Professional Training and Information Network **SELPA** Content Lead

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