

DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS FOR CHILDREN WITH NEURODIVERSITY:

Practical Strategies for the Classroom and Playground (AS, PDA, ODD, ADHD, etc)



ONLINE ON-DEMAND COURSE

When Children Feel Connected , They Learn Better

The course explains how neurodiverse children think and engage differently, discussing the impact of executive functioning, mind blindness, and literal thinking on social skills/knowledge.

Through four key teaching approaches, the course offers actionable techniques for teaching everything from communication skills (including body language, tone, and personal space), conversation skills and friendships.

Guided by the lived experiences of individuals with neurodiversity and grounded in evidence-based practices, you will learn how to create inclusive environments through thoughtful accommodations, such as social scripts, visual supports, and structured playground activities, that foster meaningful social connections for all children.

What's included?

- ✓ Online On-Demand
- ✓ 3 Hours
- ✓ 6 weeks to complete
- ✓ Certificate
- ✓ Handout includes Additional Templates
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ IT Support



Sue Larkey
Teacher



Learn From Lived Experience
Dean Beadle and Temple Grandin

HOW TO REGISTER

elearning.suelarkey.com.au

DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS FOR CHILDREN WITH NEURODIVERSITY:

Lesson 1: Understanding Neurodiverse Learners (50 mins)

- Four ways many neurodiverse students process the social world differently: mind blindness, one-track thinking, sensory processing, and difficulty reading unstated cues, each with a classroom example.
- Executive functioning: working memory, impulse control, mental flexibility, task initiation, and why it underlies turn-taking and group work.
- CASEL framework and the Personal and Social Capability curriculum framework.
- The four teaching methods used throughout the course: direct, engineered, incidental, and activity-based.
- Video from Dean Beadle addressing two research-backed myths: that autistic people lack social skills, and that they don't want friends.

Lesson 2: Communication and Conversation Skills (43 mins)

- Five communication skills and how to teach each directly: volume, body language, eye contact, personal space, and responding to being bumped into.
- Social script versus social knowledge: teaching what to say versus why to say it, with a video from Dean Beadle.
- Six stages of play, and how to identify which stage a student is at.
- Three barriers to progressing through those stages: sensory sensitivities, need for sameness, limited language.
- Ready-to-run activities for each skill.

Lesson 3: Friendships, Playgrounds and Group Work (63 mins)

- Six-stage friendship pyramid, backed by Sue's survey of 200 teachers: 38% of neurodiverse students were still at "saying hello" while peers had moved on.
- How to teach greetings, and how to tell if a student wants friendship or is content alone.
- A birthday party exercise that builds teacher empathy for what the playground feels like.
- Structured lunchtime clubs as a playground alternative, with real school examples.
- A "Can I Play?" flowchart and a playground plan for students who face peer rejection.
- Video of a 10-year-old describing his own experience of Asperger's and friendship.

Bonus:

Social Scripts Template

Editable Proformas to create Individualised Programme