**Social Skills Group**

<http://www.escambia.k12.fl.us/pbis/rtib/>

**What is it?**

A **social skill** is any skill facilitating interaction and communication with others. Social rules and relations are created, communicated, and changed in verbal and nonverbal ways. The process of learning such skills is called socialization.

**What it looks like:**

Social skills are best taught in the environment in which they are to be demonstrated, in the case of schools, in the classroom. They are best taught in the entire school consistently. They can, however, be taught in smaller groups such as by a Guidance Counselor. Social skills such as empathy and listening can be taught like academic subjects such as math and reading. Teaching involves allowing students to model and role play the correct behavior in social situations. Posters involving the skills and the steps involved in demonstrating them should be displayed in the room to cue the students. Empathy should be taught initially since it is basic to most of the other skills.

Clear and specific activities for all staff to follow must be provided to promote generalization and make sure that staff uses strategies. (TELL, SHOW, AND PRACTICE!)

**When to use it:**

* Teach social skills in naturally occurring settings.
* Use naturally occurring reinforcers.
* Use language of school-wide positive behavior system
* Pinpoint activities student likely to engage
* Use Generalization strategies to help apply skills to all settings

**Resources:**

* Learning for Life Curriculum, www.learningforlife.org
* http://pbiscompendium.ssd.k12.mo.us//
* http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/
* www.ashleypsychology.com/social-skills-group.html
* Prepare Curriculum (Secondary Level) http://www.researchpress.com/product/item/5063
* Second Step Social Skills Curriculum, http://www.cfchildren.org/programs/ssp/overview/