



## Social Language

### What is Social Language (Pragmatics)?

Social language/communication is the rules for how we use language in different situations with different people. It can include the following skills;

- **Using language for different reasons**
  - Greetings, sharing information, making requests, etc.
- **Changing language for listener or situation**
  - Using different tones of speech, sharing appropriate information, using proper language versus slang, etc.
- **Following rules for conversations and storytelling**
  - Turn-taking, eye contact, staying on topic, repairing communication breakdowns, using gestures, body language, and facial expressions, etc.

### What are some difficulties a child or individual may experience with a social communication disorder?

An individual who struggles with social communication skills, may experience difficulties ***participating in social situations, developing and maintaining peer relationships, achieving academic success, and later in life performing successfully on the job.***

Although difficulties with social communication skills are **highly dependent on an individual's age and level of development**, the following is a list of skills/behaviours impacted by ***deficit in social communication*** include;

- Using appropriate greetings
- Changing language and communication style based on setting or partner
- Telling and understanding stories
- Engaging in conversation
- Repairing communication breakdowns (e.g., rephrasing when misunderstood)



- Using appropriate verbal (e.g., tone of voice) and nonverbal (e.g., facial expression, gestures, body language) signals to support and interaction
- Interpreting the verbal and nonverbal signals of others during an interaction
- Understanding ambiguous or figurative language
- Understanding information not explicitly stated (inferring)
- Making and keeping close friendships

## Related Websites

- [ASHA Social Communication Disorder Overview](#)
- [ASHA Social Communication- The Basics](#)
- [Hanen Centre - Use "Thinking and Feeling Words"](#)