**Innovative Therapy Services**



**Pediatric Speech-Language Services**

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**About SEALS and SEALS jr. All for 3’s Program**

SEALS and SEALS Jr is All for 3’s Social Skills program for young children and youth who have significant developmental challenges (ASD with significant communication challenges, Downs Syndrome, William Syndrome). This is an evidence-based social skills intervention program designed minimally speaking children and youth who may have functional language but are limited to need based usage. Each group session will focus on teaching essential social competencies and offering participants structured opportunities for practical application of these skills through community field trips. The goal of the program is to enhance interactions and communication using visual modalities, AAC in a life skills integrated activities in a group setting. The program runs from August to June, and registration is on a first come first serve basis. The program is for ages 8 to 16. The age groups are set as follows: 8 to 11 (all based on skills and interests) and 11 to 16 (also based on skills and interests).

**Goals and objectives of the program:**

* Forster peer connections
* Expand on their communication skills
* Enhance social skills and independence
* Promote emotional health
* Engage with the community

**How does it work?**

The group size is limited to three participants to support effective learning. Each group is led by either two licensed Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) or one licensed SLP and one licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA), with the SLPA supervised by a licensed SLP. Additional support staff are present to assist children within the group.

Children undergo screening to establish appropriate goals and activities. Where possible, neurotypical peers may be included as peer mentors for conversation and activities, though this is not guaranteed. Progress is monitored through detailed weekly notes and homework assignments designed to encourage application of skills in everyday situations. The program runs once a week for 1 hour.

**Who will benefit from Seals and Seals jr.**

We believe that all children should have the opportunity to participate in social emotional learning; however, some may require additional support before engaging in intensive community, communication, or functional activities. As speech pathologists, we utilize a communication model rather than a behavioral model for our instruction. Consequently, our program may not be suitable for children with significant behavioral challenges such as hitting, biting, or eloping, as we do not have behavioral staff available for their support.

Furthermore, when a child experiences significant traumatic events or demonstrates a marked disinterest in engaging with others or peers, it is essential to respect the child's dignity by not compelling participation in activities that may exacerbate their trauma. In such cases, we frequently support families by referring them to appropriate services.