Spotlight On: Social Skills Communication Domains

Need for Social Skills Training

55% **58%**

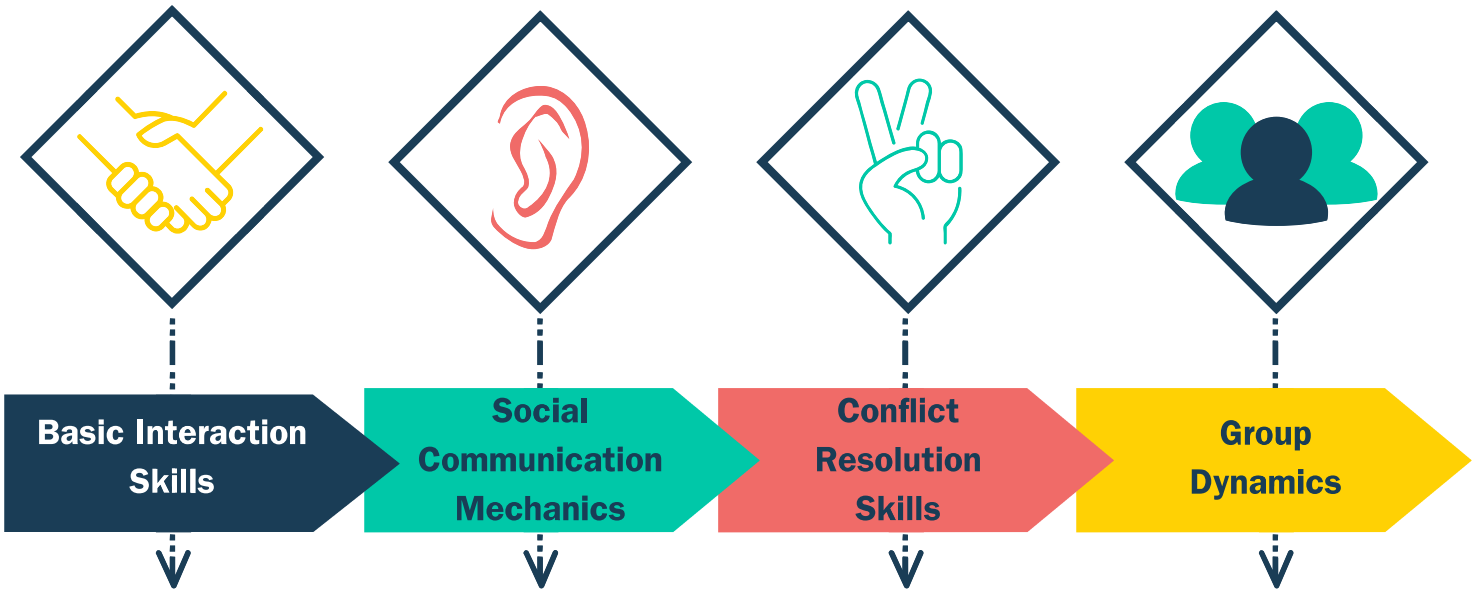
Social skills training is one of the most consistently identified needs, with 55% of adolescents and 58% of adults with autism living in PA not receiving adequate training.*

**2011 ASERT PA Autism Needs Assessment*

Choosing Skills to Target

- Skills needed for 1:1 interactions are more easily mastered than skills for group interactions. Start with basic interactions and build from there.
- There are four main communication domains (see diagram below). Basic skills are needed as a foundation for more sophisticated skills within and across domains.
- Consider social validity. The individual should feel that the skill will be helpful for them in achieving their social goals.
- Consider ecological validity. Skills should be effective for the individuals' current circumstances.

Four Main Social Communication Domains



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