

Social Group Agreement

Thank you for your interest in joining our social groups! Please read the social group guidelines and administrative policies and procedures and let your group leaders know if you have questions or would like a physical copy of this for future reference.

Details of Service

The framework of our social groups varies based on participants' skill levels, developmental standards, and potential barriers to learning. Individual goals are informed by participants' insurance plans as well as by the clinical team, family, and input from the participants themselves. Clinic based services may be subject to change according to program duration and clinic availability.

Social Group Types

All participants in Sendan Center social groups are those that have been referred internally. We currently do not offer social group spots to those who are not already established clients to ensure we have the right support in place for those that may need it. All groups welcome learners with diverse communication methods (including verbal speech, AAC, and other forms of communication), interests, abilities, and support needs. Group placement is based on age, social, behavioral, and functional skills, and what group will best promote meaningful participation and positive peer interactions.

Elementary School Group

This group is appropriate for elementary-aged clients who require increased opportunities to develop foundational social skills, including initiating interactions, engaging in reciprocal play and conversation, sustaining peer engagement, and developing flexible social communication. Learners in this group typically benefit from increased support to successfully participate in group activities and social interactions.

Prerequisite skills for this group include the ability to transition between scheduled activities, engage in both preferred and less-preferred activities (or appropriately opt out of activities that are too aversive), respond to verbal prompting, and safely engage with peers and staff.

Learners in this group typically participate with 1:1 support staff; however, independent learners may be considered on a case-by-case basis. This group is typically for clients ranging in ages from 7-11.

Middle School Group

This group is appropriate for clients who have minimal behavioral concerns and demonstrate a higher level of independence in group settings. Learners in this group benefit from opportunities to strengthen social interactions, reciprocal conversations, flexible communication, perspective taking, and good sportsmanship, while requiring less behavioral support to participate in group activities. Learners outside of the middle school age range may be considered if their level of independence is a better fit for this group.

Prerequisite skills for this group include the ability to transition between scheduled activities, engage in both preferred and less-preferred activities, respond to verbal prompting from a variety of adults, and safely engage with peers and staff.

This group is appropriate for learners who participate with or without 1:1 support staff.



High School Group

This group is appropriate for clients who require increased opportunities to develop age-appropriate social skills, including initiating social interactions, reciprocal communication, sustaining peer engagement, and using flexible communication across a variety of social situations. Learners in this group typically benefit from increased support to successfully participate in group activities and navigate peer interactions. Learners outside of the high school age range may be considered if their level of independence is a better fit for this group.

Prerequisite skills for this group include the ability to transition between scheduled activities, engage in both preferred and less-preferred activities (or appropriately opt out of activities that are too aversive), respond to verbal prompting, and safely engage with peers and staff.

Learners in this group typically participate with 1:1 support staff; however, independent learners may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Therapy High School Group

This group focuses on learning and practicing basic conversation skills and social awareness skills to help clients make and keep friends and more successfully navigate social situations. This is done each week through brief lessons, discussion, practice activities, and playing games. Clients in this group are generally independent.

Prerequisite skills for this group include the ability to reflect on previous social situations and experiences, the ability to transition between scheduled activities, engage in both preferred and less-preferred activities, respond to verbal prompting, and safely engage with peers and staff.

Behavioral Expectations

Every participant in our social groups must agree to the following expectations to ensure everyone feels safe, respected, and included. We strive to create a positive space where everyone can have fun and be themselves.

1. Be Inclusive and Respectful

- Treat others with kindness, even if we are different
- Use respectful words and actions at all times
- Do not tease, bully, or exclude others
- Choose words that make others feel safe and included
- Tell a group leader or ask for help if I hear hurtful language

2. Listen and Take Turns

- Listen when others are speaking and be open minded to their different experiences or views
- Wait my turn to talk and participate
- Respect others' ideas, even if I disagree
- Follow group rules and adult instructions

3. Stay Safe

- Make safe choices for myself and others including keeping my body to myself
- Tell a group leader if something feels wrong or unsafe
- Respect personal space and boundaries
- I will not use my body in a way that threatens the safety of others or to intimidate others

4. Participate Positively

- Try my best to join activities and be a good sport
- Encourage others and celebrate their successes
- Help create a welcoming environment to all my peers

5. Manage My Emotions

- Try to stay calm and use words to express my feelings
- If I feel upset or overwhelmed, I will ask for help or to take a break
- Ask a group leader to help me come up with solutions to ongoing problems during group

If a participant has trouble following these expectations or breaks the rules of group:

- May receive a reminder or warning
- Be asked to step away from the activity and debrief with a group leader
- Talk with a group leader or caregiver outside of social group including goal planning
- Continued behavior may result in additional consequences including early pickup, suspension from the group, or permanent dismissal from group.

Caregiver Expectations

Caregivers are responsible for transporting children safely and are expected to be sober of all substances at drop off and pickup. If a caregiver appears to be visibly impaired, intoxicated, or smells strongly of alcohol or marijuana when picking up a child from group, staff reserves the right to refuse to release the child into that person's care due to safety concerns. Alternative arrangements will need to be made via emergency contacts and/or CPS.

Attendance Policy

Social groups are scheduled weekly and should not be considered as a drop in model. We understand that cancellations happen due to illness or emergencies, but participants and guardians are asked to provide at least 24-hours' notice whenever possible. Late cancellations, inconsistent attendance, and repeated no-shows may result in discharge from social group. Participants are asked to attend a minimum of 3 of the 4 sessions a month and will be considered discharged if several weeks of group are missed without just cause or communication.

Sickness Policy

Please cancel if your child has a fever of over 100.4, is vomiting or has had diarrhea twice within a 24-hour period. Participants should not return until the fever, vomiting, or diarrhea has been absent for at least 24 hours without the aid of



fever or symptom-reducing medication. If they are OK for group (by their own assessment or caregiver accounts) but other symptoms such as congestion, cough, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, or other symptoms are present; we may ask you to take a COVID test and wear a mask (if able to) until symptoms are no longer present.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand Sendan Center's social group policies and agree to the terms listed above.

Client	Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian	Printed Name	Signature	Date
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