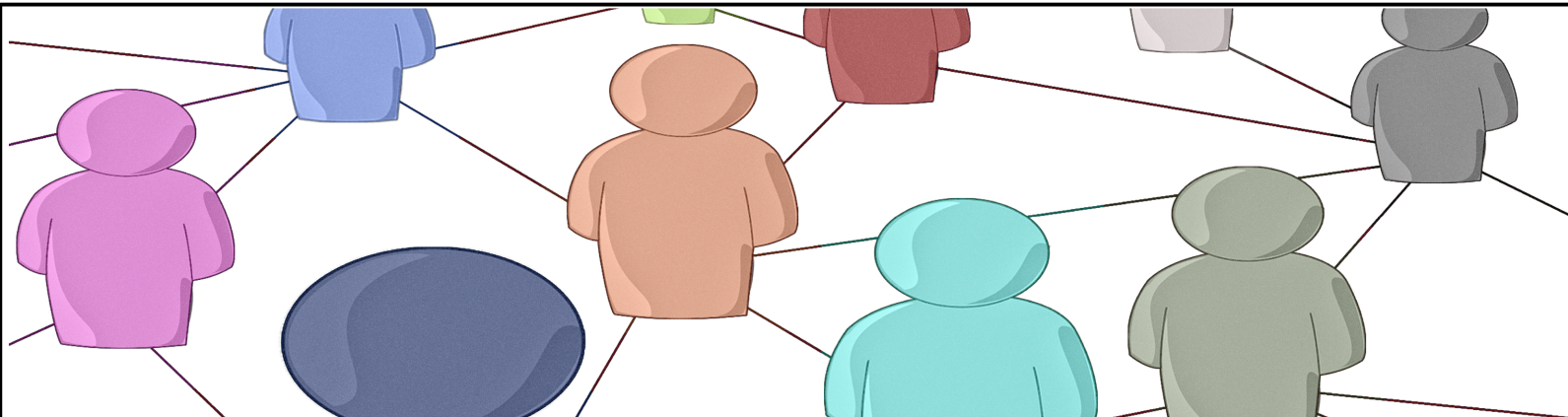


# SOCIAL INTERACTION



## SERVICE POPULATION

Appropriate for all youth regardless of whether they are in foster care, live with their biological parents, or reside in a group home and if they are between the *ages of 8 and 21*.

## SPECIFIC FOCUS POINTS

Examples of what character traits and skills the Social Interaction Program teaches the youth:

- Expectations of acceptable social behaviors when in public
- Distance management in relation to conversations
- The use of facial expressions, gestures and conveying non-verbal messages
- Maintaining individuality while being aware of culture, trends, and social pressures

For additional information about this program or any other programs that we offer, or to make a referral, please visit us at [www.youthconnectva.com](http://www.youthconnectva.com)



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Social Interaction** focuses on the language and nonverbal processes in which people connect and interact with one another. In today's society, youth are experiencing an overwhelming reliance and exposure to electronic technology and often rely on indirect methods of communication when interacting with others.

Today's youth experience a drastic difference in regards to their exposure to society than years past. Aided by the convenience and constant access provided by cell phones, a huge majority of them rely on social media to interact with their peers and family members.

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter remain dominant forces in their social media ecosystems and they have prominent roles in their daily lives.

As the technology environment has changed, so have their methods of communication. This over-reliance on electronic media has inadvertently resulted in many of them not properly developing vital and necessary social interaction skills.

Constant dependence on cell phones, combined with deficits in their home environment, makes it difficult for them to properly relay their emotions in a suitable manner. Consequences of their inability to communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively often results in problems at home and at school.

Our Social Interaction Program works to address these deficits. It teaches youth how to develop personal relationships, the role of communication in social influence, formal and informal conversations, close relationships, effective decision-making, and interpersonal conflicts.

It places emphasis on teaching participants how to interact in an appropriate manner in both public and private settings. Youth are taught peer interaction strategies and learn a variety of techniques on how to respond to challenging personalities and difficult situations.