

# 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. Applicable for youth between the ages of 8 and 21.

## Focus Points & Session Info

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

Sessions are structured in individual or small group settings in the community for an average of five hours per week.

For additional information about this program or to make a referral, please contact our team and we would be happy to assist you.



## Program Description

Social Interaction focuses on the language and non-verbal 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. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter remain dominant forces in their social media ecosystems and they have prominent roles in their daily lives.

This over-reliance on electronic media has inadvertently resulted in many youth not properly developing vital and necessary social interaction skills. Constant dependence on devices, combined with deficits in their home environments, 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.

## Youth Connect of Virginia

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