



Apr 18th, 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM

Making Others Feel Good: Targeted Social Skills Activities Using Social Stories for Teens/Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Poster Presentation P46

MAKING OTHERS FEEL GOOD: TARGETED SOCIAL SKILLS ACTIVITIES USING SOCIAL STORIES FOR TEENS/ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

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Deficits in social skills and, more specifically, reciprocal social interaction are common difficulties among adolescents and adults diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Social stories, small vignettes explaining how and why people act in certain ways, and behavioral rehearsal, are common educational tools used to facilitate reciprocal social interaction in people with autism. This exploratory research project investigated ways to increase reciprocal social interaction among high functioning adolescents/adults with autism through the use of social stories and behavioral rehearsal. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected to assess participants' evaluation of the social skill/behavioral rehearsal activities, the importance of social skills, perception of improvement after practicing a skill, and perception of how someone feels when the skill is directed towards him/her.