

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: How is this program different from my child playing with peers in other settings (ie. Home, school, park, etc.)?

A: Our trained therapists use specific strategies to facilitate social interaction in authentic and natural settings. They know when to wait, when to intervene, and what to point out to the child so each can gain more confidence and independence in social interactions. Your child will build social skills with the right partner at the right time.

Q: How is this program different from behavioral social skills programs?

A: Our program is conducted in an environment that facilitates fun and interaction with peers. The kids do not learn a list of rules. This is because there are too many nuances in social interaction, making the rules difficult to apply to real life situations. Based on the context in which a social interaction occurs, the rules that govern social interaction often change or have exceptions. Instead, authentic strategies that even adults use in conversation are modeled and developed. The kids learn how to handle a variety of situations that require understanding other's perspectives.

Q: Has the program been conducted before?

A: Yes. Both the kids and the parents had positive reports about the program.

What do the kids think about the program?

When asked, "what did you learn?", the kids responded..

"how to be a better friend"

"to look at my friend's face more"

(referring to being more in tune to how his friend is feeling)

P.A.L.S.

Perspective Taking.
Affect Development.
Language Building.
Social Skills.



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—and—
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Theory of Mind

Good social interactions require theory of mind. Theory of mind is an understanding of what others might be thinking or feeling.

Difficulties with theory of mind may manifest itself as difficulties in the following areas:

- Interpreting others intentions
- Determining how your actions affect others
- Taking other's perspectives
- Engaging in collaborative play
- Making friends
- Problem solving through conflicts with others

If your child struggles with theory of mind, our PALS program might be a good fit.



Who?

Your child may be eligible if he/she has:

- Desire to interact with peers
- Difficulties with theory of mind (mentioned previously)
- Difficulty with peer play

Our PALS program matches peers based on common interests, age, and communication level while taking into account various sensory processing difficulties.

Groups range from 2-5 peers. At times, the group may start off small and peers will be added when deemed appropriate.



When?

The program will consist of 9 sessions, 8 of which are with their peer(s) and the last is a consult with the child's therapist to discuss progress.

Specific dates and times will be determined upon finding a match for your child.

Where?

The program is held at Pediatric Therapy and Learning Center at 108 Energy Parkway, Lafayette, LA. The program is conducted in a natural and authentic context to promote carryover.

How do I sign up?

If you'd like us to find a match for your child to participate in our PALS program, contact the front office to put him/her on our PALS list. For more information or questions to determine if this program is appropriate for your child contact Kourtni Hayes, MS, CCC-SLP at Kourtni@pediatrictlc.com or call 504-4244.

If your child is not currently being seen by a PTLC therapist, a pre-program consult is required. (charge: \$25)