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Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy

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# Achieving Social Skills Milestones



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Founder / Director

As most people would intuit, research supports the notion that social skills lead to a happy, successful life. Research has linked social skills to academic achievement<sup>1</sup>, resiliency<sup>2,3</sup> and job success<sup>4</sup>. Research has also linked social skill deficits to delinquency, school dropout, and substance abuse among adolescents.<sup>5</sup> Studies have long established social skill deficits during childhood as the single best predictor of mental health problems later in life.<sup>6,7</sup> For most parents, it is easy to take social skills for granted. However, some children become delayed in their social skill development. Social skill delays may stem from sensory processing disorders, speech and language delays, inherited tendencies, environmental problems, learning disabilities, developmental delays, autism or delays may have no known cause. Some situations merit additional assistance to maximize a child's ability to develop social skills. The occupational and speech therapists of Emerge help teach social skills to children when they do not seem to be developing at normal rates. Look for these social skill milestones among children in your care:



**Two & Three Years Old**

- Uses objects symbolically while playing alone
- Watches other children and joins their play briefly
- Participates in simple group activities
- Begins to play house
- Understands gender

**Four & Five Years Old**

- Shows interest in exploring differences in the sexes
- Dramatic play is closer to reality in terms of attention to detail, time, and space
- Plays dress up
- Plays and interacts with other children

**Three & Four Years Old**

- Shares toys
- Takes turns with assistance
- Begins dramatic play and acts out whole scenes

**Five & Six Years Old**

- Chooses own friends
- Plays simple board games
- Plays competitive games
- Plays cooperatively with other children and can participate in group decisions, role assignments, and fair play

The pediatric experts at Emerge use private play sessions, selected child pairings, and/or carefully enrolled group sessions to help teach children age-appropriate social skills. These sessions help children successfully navigate school and develop friendships.



## Affordable Care at Emerge – A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.

**Please tell parents about Emerge – A Child's Place  
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish**

## References

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