



Social Competence and Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Discussion Questions

1. Social competence is the ability to interact successfully with peers and adults. Can you describe the ways your child exhibits social competence?
2. Can you identify situations where your child's lack of social competence is interfering with learning or other daily living opportunities?
3. In what ways would supporting your child in acquiring social competence affect your child's life?
4. There are a number of characteristics of autism that can interfere with the acquisition of social competence. Could you name some of the characteristics of autism your child exhibits that interfere with their gaining social competence?
5. Communication is one of the foundations of socialization. How does your child's communication affect his or her ability to interact with others?
6. Not knowing the rules of the hidden curriculum can be a major barrier in your child becoming a part of the community. Can you identify aspects of the hidden curriculum that you could teach your child to improve his or her integration with peers and others in the community?
7. Does components of acquiring social competence appear on your child's IEP? Can you think of some aspects of social competence that you feel should be included in your child's IEP?