SLP Neurodiversity Collective's mission is to provide free public access to pro-neurodiversity focused therapists, to advocate with our therapists and the neurodivergent and disabled populations we serve, and to provide education for therapy practices and methodologies which presume competence, are non-trauma inducing and which respect human rights, dignity and sensory preferences.

For More Information and Resources for Pragmatic Language & Social Skills:
https://slpndc.org/therapy/non-ableist-pragmatic-language-therapy/

https://www.facebook.com/SLPNeurodiversityCollective
Examples of Pro-Neurodiversity Objectives:

- Self-Advocacy, Self-Determination
- Perspective Taking: Self and Others
- Interoception for: Self-Regulation, Self-Awareness, Flexibility of Thought, Intuition, Perspective Taking, Problem Solving, Social Understanding
- Teaching how one’s body sensations correlate to emotions
- Figurative Language: Metaphors, Similes, Personification, Hyperbole, Symbolism
- Building upon strengths

Note on Perspective Taking Therapy:

- Targeting perspective taking may include teaching children and teens to understand how and why neurotypical act the way they do in various settings and situations. We do not use rote social scripts or social stories as this takes away self-determination and leads to inauthentic communication.

- Targeting perspective taking may include teaching consenting Autistic people (old enough to determine their personal “social skills” goals, and old enough to understand potentially harmful aspects of masking) neurotypical socially expected norms in various social, educational and work environments. Clients will self-determine if, or when they choose to use this knowledge.

Pragmatic Language Therapy

Dictating how a neurodivergent person will communicate in specific social situations takes away their self-determination. SLP Neurodiversity Collective believes in authentic social communication for all people, rather than mandating compliance for neurotypical expectations. We use supports, such as visual schedules to help people navigate specific routines.

It is important for neurotypical therapists to understand that social interaction can be exhausting for autistic people and other people who are neurodivergent, especially if they are being pressured to imitate neurotypical mannerisms and mask their autistic behavior and feelings. SLP Neurodiversity Collective therapists don’t “train” social skills. Historically, social skills therapy has been generally based upon neurotypical expectations which do not take into consideration the diversity of the populations we serve.

Examples of Ableist Objectives

- Treating Autism
- Eye Contact with Communication Partner
- Quiet Hands and Whole Body Listening
- Extinguishing perceived neurodivergent social deficits
- Teaching social scripting that encourages masking
- Social skills goals that focus on making the client appear indistinguishable from their neurotypical peers

SLP Neurodiversity Collective™

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