



Cooperative Games!

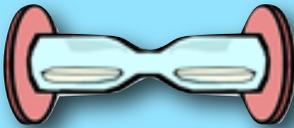
Speech Therapy Session Activities Ideas!

Part 1
in a
Series

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Why Cooperative Games Can Be A Great Part Of Many Of Your Group Therapy Sessions:

Clinicians often incorporate a game theme activity to motivate their clients to participate and complete the session's goals. Cooperative Games are those activities that emphasize participation and group effort rather than competition. The goal is to work together to accomplish a task rather than defeat opponents! A winning outcome is enjoyed by all, not just one.

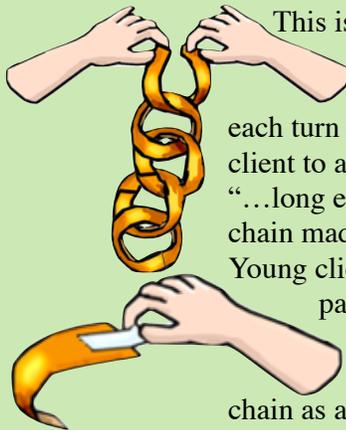


Cooperatively Making Therapy Time Go By!

Start with a small one or two minute sand timer set sideways. After each turn of their speech therapy goal work, each client is allowed to turn the timer up and let the sand move to the other side of the timer for a specified amount of seconds (such as five, seven, or ten, etc.) Then the timer is set back on its side. The group may enjoy counting out the seconds together. (The seconds of sand allowed to pass can be varied by the clinician depending on the group size, length of session, and amount of turns needed.) After each turn, the sand timer is kept sideways waiting for the next group member to help "move time". The group's goal is for the all of the sand to be moved through before therapy time is over!



The Cooperative Growing Paper Chain! (Watch it take over your room!)



This is a group effort, not just with small groups but the entire speech therapy caseload. Let the clients know you want to decorate the therapy room with a super long paper chain and all the clients can make it grow together. After each turn of their speech therapy goal work, a strip of paper and tape are given to the client to add to the chain. The group's goal may be pre-set such as to make the chain "...long enough to reach across the table by the end of the session." Add on to the chain made by other groups to make a super long snaking chain by the end of the week! Young clients are excited to return the following week to see just how long the room's paper chain has grown, and to know they were a part of the big project! Even the clients with whom you work individually can feel like they are a contributing part of the big group making the room's chain. Keep the chain as a room decoration! (Use thin strips to conserve paper. Recycle paper after!)

Cooperatively Building A Puzzle!

Start with a simple jigsaw puzzle with all the pieces separated. (Size and theme of the puzzle should be matched to the client's age and abilities.) If you don't have a purchased puzzle, a simple age appropriate puzzle can also be fashioned by cutting up a picture (from a magazine or the internet) of a popular age relevant theme that has first been glued to a piece of card stock paper. (Cut the number of pieces needed to match the turns and abilities of the group.) After a turn with their speech therapy goal work, each client is allowed to add one piece until the entire group collectively completes the entire puzzle. There can be extra fun by letting the group guess what the puzzle picture will turn out to be after each little piece is added!



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(Possible Suggestions Only: The experienced Clinician's guidance and judgement to appropriateness of any activity in therapy is required. Use of every therapy plan must ALWAYS be decided upon by the qualified Speech Language Pathologist based on goals and abilities appropriate to their specific clients.

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