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Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy

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3905 University Drive  
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Serving children from  
birth to adolescence

Using therapy to improve  
conditions such as:

- Delayed Speech
- Developmental Coordination Disorder
- Speech Impairments
- Non-communicative Speech
- Oral/Verbal Apraxia
- Language Disorders
- Feeding Difficulties
- Autism/Asperger's/PDD
- Developmental Delay
- Cerebral Palsy
- Sensory Integration Disorders
- Sensory Modulation Disorders
- Handwriting Impairments
- Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent  
Provider



www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com



Bonnie Hacker, MHS, OTR/L  
Founder / Director

## Achieving Social Skills Milestones

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</sup> and job success.<sup>3</sup> Research has also linked social skill deficits to delinquency, school dropout, and substance abuse among adolescents.<sup>4</sup> Studies have long established social skill deficits during childhood as a strong predictor of mental health problems later in life.<sup>5-8</sup> For most parents, it is easy to take social skills for granted. However, some children become delayed in their social skills development. Social skills delays may stem from sensory processing disorders, speech and language delays, inherited tendencies, environmental problems, learning disabilities, developmental delays, autism, and more, 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 therapy specialists 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.



## The Fun Place for Therapy

At Emerge, children find skilled therapists, colorful surroundings, and lots of toys and playful equipment. In general, Emerge is a place children like at first sight and look forward to visiting again. Important therapy has never been so much fun.

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

## References

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