

Kelly Ott
98 Corporate Lake Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
klott@mcmsys.com
573-473-6091

Dear Parents,

Many of you have asked us to develop a social skills summer camp. Here is some info. about the camp we are trying to organize:

When: June (Monday - Friday). This is a drop-off camp. Parents are not required to stay, but you may stay in the conference room if you would like.

Where: Camp will be held at our offices: 98 Corporate Lake Drive Columbia, MO 65203.

Ages: 11-15 year old children

Cost: \$350.00 tuition: includes 10 hours of group therapy sessions, and hand-outs. Payable by July 24, 2017. We accept checks and credit cards.

Groups: We try to group by age, so it depends on how many sign up. Our goal is to have 4-6 children in camp.

What if the grouping is not working?

If the social grouping is too overstimulating or not beneficial for your child, then we will adjust the session to allow the children to be in dyads (pairs), then reintroduce. Some children may need a couple of one-on-one times away from group with one of the therapists and then re-introduce into the group. With the overall goal being that the child will be able to interact with peers and have success.

Who is running this group?

A certified Speech-Language Pathologist: Kelly Ott, assisted by a teen peer tutor. She have over 22 years of experience. Communication is our specialty and social language is our focus. We inherently believe that humans are motivated by social reasons: such as attention, control, entertainment, affection, rapport, team-work, and support.

Disclosures:

-It is important for each child to succeed: This is an evidence-based framework. We have used phases of it with children and parents in other settings where we have worked. Your input to the process is extremely valuable to us as our goal is to create a place where children can be socially successful. Feedback forms are necessary for us to continually improve the group

therapy. We have tried to build in as many safeguards as we can, but we acknowledge that we cannot think of everything.

-Group Variability: We know each child is an individual and will bring a unique spin to the group. When several kids who do not know each other come together, there may be situations that arise and we will need to problem-solve. Our goal is to resolve your concerns to your satisfaction.

-Confidentiality issues: Please understand that you will need to complete confidentiality agreement form to participate in the group therapy. Information shared in group is to remain confidential. If parents want to exchange contact information on their own after the group, that is to be done at their own discretion.

-Video release: Videotaping will be an essential component of the therapy process. Children and parents need to be able to view their social interaction progress a method of self-monitoring. A video release will be required to allow us to videotape the sessions.

-Peer models: There may be typical peer models in some of the sessions.

Philosophy and Beliefs: Social Competency

-Our overall goal is to help children and parents understand and develop the idea of social competency. We believe that social competency is a complex skill that consists of emotional regulation, perspective taking, prosocial behaviors, and motivation towards successful adaptations to society's norms.

-We address small steps in these areas in our therapy. We are heavily influenced by perspective taking skill development as it provides the foundation for social competency and the concept of Theory of Mind (Baron-Cohen, Leslie, and Frith, 1985)

-This involves children being able to step outside their own egocentric thinking and read between the lines and start formulating questions about others using questioning strategies and ascent routines described by Robert Gordon (1996).

-What are they thinking? Does that child want to play with me? Do they want me to join?

-How am I perceived by others?

-How do I create positive perceptions?

-Why should I care about how others perceive me?

-Understanding what is not there, what is not directly stated, reading between the lines

-Social inferencing

1. Interventions in social group involve the following strategies for children and parents to develop an understanding of the perceptions of others:
 - a. Scripting and role playing
 - b. Peer Modeling and Coaching
 - c. Hierarchy of Cues
 - d. The purpose of assumptions
 - a. Gaming research

- We respect and value your philosophy and beliefs. We may have overlapping concepts, but we may have some differences in philosophy. It will be important for us to recognize those differences and determine how we will approach that. You may not have ever formalized your philosophy about social competency, so that may be what you discover in this 6-week process. When you begin to put your thoughts into a format, you can begin to develop consistency and decision-making to guide you. also, it will help you communicate to schools and other caregivers your beliefs of social competency

Tentative Camp Schedule:

9:15 Check-in, social stories, individual conferences rotation

9:45: Social activities: Games (indoor and outdoor)

10:30: Snack and conversations

10:45: Team building and "social skill of the day"

11:05: Jobs and clean up

11:15 Exit