

Course Title:	Applied Communications
Grade(s):	Grade 9-12

Course Description
This course is designed for students who qualify to receive special education, attend general education classes, and require additional support in regulating their social emotional wellness from interfering in school success. Targeted strategies and modeling will be provided with a focus on recognizing behaviors that interfere with social communication, and strengthening interpersonal skills to successfully participate within the educational setting. Social Skills education teaches students appropriate interpersonal communication skills, (e.g., identifying personal space, maintaining eye contact, engaging in non-preferred topics of conversation, appropriately initiating and closing conversation, and recognition of nonverbal cues), and problem solving skills. It combines a number of strategies to prevent and replace problem behaviors, and increase skills and behaviors leading to social competence.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
Everyday Speech Social Thinking Series by Michelle Garcia Winner

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
All Units:	Executive Functioning- Organizing and Planning: Students will build tools to manage materials, time and tasks. This will be ongoing work that spirals through each unit. The students will be exposed to the following: • Using planners, checklists, and visual schedules • Breaking tasks into manageable steps • Setting goals and tracking progress • Preparing for assignments, community outings, and work-based learning tasks	
Unit 1:	Foundations of Functional Communication: At the end of this unit students will establish core communication expectations and identify individual communication	2 weeks

	strengths and needs. Students will understand the following: • Personal communication styles • Using verbal, visual and assistive communication tools • Initiate and respond in conversations • Identify settings where communication needs differ (school, community, work sites)	
Unit 2:	Expressive and Receptive Communication in Daily Life: At the end of this unit students will build skills for clear message delivery and accurate comprehension. Students will understand the following: • How to ask and answer functional questions • How to request help, clarification or materials • Follow multi-step directions with supports • Respond appropriately to feedback	6 weeks
Unit 3:	Social Pragmatics and Understanding Social Expectations: At the end of this unit students will have increased social awareness and identify the “hidden rules” of common environments. Students will understand the following: • Context of communication (school, community outings, workplace) • Personal space, body language and tone • Turn-taking and reciprocal conversation • Identify expected vs. unexpected behaviors	6 weeks
Unit 4:	Social Problem-Solving and Self Regulation: At the end of this unit students will navigate challenges and regulate behavior in social situations. Students will understand the following: • How to recognize emotions in self and others • How to use coping strategies to manage frustration • Problem-solving steps (identify, think, choose and reflect) • Repair communication breakdowns	6 weeks
Unit 5:	Functional Community Communication: At the end of this unit students will apply communication skills during community or vocational activities. Students will understand the following: • Communicating with store/restaurant staff • Asking for assistance or clarification in real settings	6 weeks

	• Using social pragmatics during errand and community tasks • Understanding public vs. private communication	
Unit 6:	Digital and Nonverbal Communication: At the end of the unit students will understand communication beyond spoken words. Students will understand the following: • Email basics, messaging etiquette, and professional tone • Interpreting facial expressions and gestures • Recognizing social cues in digital spaces • Appropriate boundaries in online communication	6 weeks
Unit 7:	Collaboration, Teamwork and Group Participation: At the end of the unit students will build cooperative communication skills. Students will understand the following: • Working in pairs and groups • Sharing tasks and responsibilities • Active listening and responding • Negotiating roles and managing disagreements	6 weeks