Implementing the LEAP Curriculum in Inclusive Preschool Settings

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Special Thanks for Training from University of Colorado at Denver!
Who We Were

- Three centerbased classrooms across two counties
- Lacking consistency in who was focusing on what at each site
- PDA training was the answer!
• Observations and training in Denver as well as in our center-based programs. Locations observed were in Effingham, KS and Meriden, KS, and Oskaloosa, KS.

• The goal of training was the expectation that every student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can access high quality, evidence-based educational services in his or her local district. We are committed to building the capacity of highly trained professionals to work with students with ASD rather than relying upon outside consultants.
Focus

- Structured teaching
- Social Communication
- Evidenced-Based Programs and Strategies
Training Topics Included:

- Positive Approaches to Challenging Behavior
- Data Collection and Use
- Observation of Model Programs
- Social Skill Acquisition
Visual Schedules
Importance of Visual Schedules

• Implementation of individual and whole class schedules.
• Beneficial to entire class.
• Gives students the feeling of independence.
• Reference point for all students.
• Students know what is coming up in their day. “First...Then...”
Developing Our Curriculum
• Division by expertise

• Putting it into a Matrix

• Fine Tuning to Match Skills Across Domains

• Implementation to Provide Unity Across all Keystone Districts
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<th>Unit</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Sound/ Letter</th>
<th>Math/ Science</th>
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<th>Shape</th>
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<th>Spatial Relations/ MISC</th>
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<th>Pre-Writing</th>
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<td>Palmer Arches</td>
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<td>Self-Awareness Head, Shoulders, Knees &amp; Toes</td>
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<td>Initiating Conversations w/Peers</td>
<td>Going on a Bear Hunt</td>
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Parent Board
Welcome to Our Classrooms!
Mr. Sun Song

Oh Mr. Cat, Mr. Fat Cat
Please come Sit on me.
Oh Mr. Cat, Mr. Fat Cat
Hiding behind that tree,
These little children are asking you, please come out so we can play with you.
Calendar
Surprise/Secret Sound

- Focus is on the sound of the letter.
- Letter/sound association is presented.
Social Skills

LEAP Skill #1: Getting Attention
Getting My Friend’s Attention

Hi! I’m Jody and I’m Cody! We wanted to show you how you can get a friend to look at you and listen to you when you want them to. Come on, Cody and I will show you how!
I want to ask Cody if I can pick an apple with him. First, I’m going to look at Cody.
I will gently tap Cody’s shoulder to let him know that I’m wanting to talk to him. Tap, tap, tap.
I will make sure that I say Cody’s name to let him know that he is the friend that I want to talk to. Cody...
Oh, hi Jody!

Cody, can I pick apples with you?

Yes!

I’m so happy that I got my friend Cody’s attention!
Getting My Friend’s Attention

I see that Cody is playing in the kitchen. I want to say hi to Cody while he’s playing.
Look At Your Friend

First, I will look at my friend Cody.
Then, I will tap my friend Cody on the shoulder.
Say Their Name

Last, I will say my friend’s name, “Cody…hi.”
Hi Jody! Do you want to play with me in the kitchen?

Yes!
Bye Cody and Jody!

Thanks for watching me get my friend Cody’s attention by looking at my friend, tapping his shoulder, and saying his name!

We’ll see you at school!
LEAP Skill #2

Sharing or “Giving Toys”
Hi! I’m Cody! Today Jody and I are going to show you how we share our toys with each other. C’mon! Let’s go and see what Jody is playing with!
Get My Friend’s Attention

Jody is playing with the toy cars. I want to play with a car too! First, I have to look at Jody, tap her on the shoulder…tap, tap, tap, and then say her name.

“Jody.”
Say “Here!”

Oh good, Jody is looking at me. She knows that I want to play with the cars too. She hands me a toy car and says, “Here, Cody.”
Give a toy to a Friend

Jody says “Here” and gives me a toy car to play with.

Thanks, Jody!

We have fun playing with our cars together.
Oh, look! Jody is playing at the sand table. I want to play with her.
Getting My Friend’s Attention

I will look at Jody, tap her shoulder and say her name. “Jody.”
At the sand table

Jody looks at me and knows that I want to play with the sand toys too!
Jody says “Here, Cody.” She gives me a toy to play with. Jody is such a nice friend.
Remember To Share

Thanks for watching Jody and I share our toys today! Sharing toys is fun! Remember to share your toys with your friends today!
Bye Cody and Jody!

Have fun sharing!
We’ll see you at school!
LEAP Skill # 3
Sharing Request
Hi! My name is Cody! My name is Jody! Today, you get to watch Cody and I learn how to share with our friends by asking for something.
Oh, look! Cody is playing with the horse! I want to play with the horse too! Horses are my favorite!
Getting My Friend’s Attention

I need to get Cody’s attention. First, I will look at Cody. Next, I gently tap his shoulder, “tap, tap, tap.” Then I say his name, “Cody.”
Holding Out My Hand

I hold out my hand in front of Cody. Then, I ask nicely for the horse by saying, “May I have that please?”
Now, Let’s Practice Together

Will you help me ask Cody again for the horse? Let’s ask it together…ready, “May I have that please?”
Now Cody is playing with the ball. I want to play with the ball too! We can play together! Let’s go and get Cody’s attention.
Look, Tap, Say Name

I look at Cody, tap him on the shoulder, and say his name, “Cody.”
Hold Out Hand

Then, I hold out my hand in front of Cody.
Ask Nicely For Toy

Now, I ask Cody for the ball by nicely saying, “May I have that please?”
You Do It!

Can you ask Cody nicely for the ball? Let me hear you ask him.
Now, let’s say it together, “May I have that please?”
Bye!

Thanks for watching Cody and I today! We had fun learning with you about how to ask our friends for toys! We’ll see you in the classroom!
LEAP Skill #4

Play Organizer
Hi! I’m Cody, and I’m Jody. Jody and I are going to talk about giving our friend a play idea today! Come on, let’s go to the classroom!
Getting A Friend’s Attention

Jody is sitting at the table watching other kids play. I’m going to get her attention. Tap, tap, tap, “Jody.”
Next, I’m going to give Jody a block and tell her something she could do with the block. “Jody you can take this block to the block area to play.”
Then, I give Jody an idea about what we can play. “Jody, we can build a race track with the blocks so that we can race our cars on it!”
Time to Play

Jody likes the idea I gave her! We have fun playing with our race track!
Get Their Attention

Oh look, Jody is standing over by herself and looking out the window. Tap, tap, tap, “Jody.”
Give a Toy and Play Idea

Here is a doctor’s coat. You can put it on and we can play doctor together!
Play Together

Jody and I have fun playing doctor! I gave her a good idea to put the coat on a play doctor.
Bye!

Can you practice giving your friends a play idea? Have fun with your friends! We’ll see you in the classroom! Bye!
LEAP Skill #5

Giving Compliments
Hi! I’m Cody and I’m Jody! We like to give each other compliments. Do you know what a compliment is?
What is a compliment?

A compliment means saying nice things about someone like;

“Good Job!”

“Great work!”

“I like the way you sing!”
What is a compliment?

It also means doing things like;
- Giving a hug
- Patting someone on the shoulder
- Giving a high-five
Give a Compliment to Your Friend

Cody is coloring at the table. I am going to give him a compliment.

“\textit{I like the way you’re coloring, Cody.}”
Give a Compliment to Your Friend

“Thanks, Jody!”

Friends like it when you say or do nice things.
Give a Compliment to Your Friend

Oh, now Cody is building a tall tower.

“Wow, Cody. Good job! That tower is so tall! High five!”
Don’t forget to say and do nice things for your friends today!

Bye!
Increasing Social Skills During Center Time & Recess
• Peer Buddies – pairing non-identified peers with identified peers
• Peer coaching during play by staff
• Rewards for Social Skill being practiced
• Use of “First...Then...” card during center selection
• Use of the “Problem Solving Kit”
• Peer Puppets
• Waiting Picture List (use of canning lids)
• Use of Social Interaction Rating Sheet
Peer puppets

Solution Kit
# Social Interaction Rating Sheet

**Child's Name:**

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Increasing Social Skills During Circle Time
• Build in supports such as Big Mac Switches, Picture Exchange Cards...
• Practice of responses with a peer prior to circle time.
• Sensory Reinforcers
• Use of Props
• Dancing with Buddies
• Asking Questions about show & tell item
• Indicating which friend by verbalization or finger point during show & tell
Other Focuses of Circle Time

- Opening Circle: Calendar, Numbers, Colors, Shapes, Alphabet
- Story Time
- Nursery Rhyme
- Music & Movement
- Show & Tell
Snack Time

• Family Style
• Snack Helper
• Juice/Milk Helper
• Use of Child Sized Pitchers
• Encouragement of Conversation Skills with PECS & Conversation Starters
• Trash Helper
Next Adventures

• Constant Reflection & Revisions
• Increased use of LEAP Curriculum each Year
• Each Student presents new adventures in teaching!
Question/Answer Time
Special Thanks for Training from University of Colorado at Denver!
Thank You for Your Attendance!

Further Questions Contact: jtust@usd343.org