

Playing by the Rules



A social skills group for children

Developing Social Awareness

(Age: 9 - 12 year olds)

Alison Brown – Psychologist (AMAPS)
Grad.Dip (Psych), B.Ed (Psych), Dip.T



Knowing what to do and say in social settings can often prove challenging. Social skills do not always develop easily or naturally. Some children need to practice and learn these skills as an intellectual exercise. Identifying, discussing and developing social skills is of great importance, as many difficulties in student interactions and in classroom behaviour can stem from a lack of social awareness or competence. Good social skills are critical to successful functioning in life. Designed for students in regular schools, this program caters for children experiencing social and / or communication difficulties, such as awkwardness mixing with peers, trouble understanding body language, rehearsed or mechanical conversations, and difficulty coping with change.

Run during school terms, on Tuesday afternoons, this group focuses on:

- Communication skills – listening and speaking
- Understanding and reading body language
- Approaching others and joining in
- Coping with teasing, bullying and exclusion
- Problem solving / decision making / negotiating
- Working co-operatively with others
- Developing social competence and confidence

Participants will be involved in group discussions and activities, role plays, games, and interactive tasks. Group work provides a social learning environment where children can share their thoughts and experiences. With a qualified facilitator, children benefit from receiving accurate interpersonal feedback from their peers in a supportive and enjoyable setting.

DATE: Tuesday afternoons (February 17th – March 24th - 2009)
TIME: 5.00 – 6.00pm
VENUE: Bowen Street Community Centre, Camberwell (Corner of Toorak Road and Bowen Street)
COST: \$270.00 (covers 6 x 1 hour sessions plus handouts, parent letters and verbal feedback)
Rebates available through private health funds or Medicare with a GP referral

Alison Brown is a registered psychologist, an experienced teacher and a parent. In providing group programs for children, she brings experience from both an educational and psychological background. Having taught for seven years, and worked as a school psychologist, she has first-hand experience in recognising and catering for the social, emotional, academic, and organisational needs of students. Alison runs a private practice in Melbourne, working particularly in the areas of parenting, counselling and gifted children and is currently completing a PhD through La Trobe University..

(Email: alisonbrown@psychologyandchildren.com.au – Phone: (03) 9824 6617 or 0408 177982)

“Playing by the Rules” – Developing social awareness (Age: 9 - 12 years)

I wish to enrol my son _____ in the *Social Skills* group from February 17th – March 24th - 2009 at Bowen Street Community Centre, Camberwell

Child's School: _____ Year level: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Cost: \$270 (cash, cheque or EFT)

Signed: _____ Mail to: 24 Robinson Street, Malvern 3144

(Please phone to confirm availability of places) Phone: (03) 9824 6617 Email: alisonbrown@psychologyandchildren.com.au