
Creative Interventions and Activities Clearinghouse

Media Collage Clips: Using Pop Culture to Enhance Social Skills

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Purpose:

The purpose of the creative intervention is to teach social skills through facial expressions and body language. This exercise may be especially helpful for clients with Autism or Asperger's Syndrome but will potentially need more help with selecting pictures

Materials Needed:

One piece of 8½" x 11" card stock; scissors; glue; markers or paints/paint brushes; multiple, age-appropriate magazines (e.g. People Magazine, Men's Health, Rolling Stone)

Procedures:

The client begins by thinking of a feeling or emotion, and acts out what that feeling or emotion looks like. The client writes their chosen emotion on a piece of cardstock with a marker or paint. The client chooses pictures from either the Internet or magazines (selected based on the child's age, not on their developmental level) of people displaying the chosen feeling. The pictures provided should represent public figures at both their best and worst, to provide a wide range of images to select from. The client cuts out the pictures and glues them to the card stock, creating a collage depicting a certain feeling or emotion expressed through facial expressions or body language. Once completed the client shares their collage with the group and/or counselor.

Process Questions and Follow-Up:

Promote social learning for the client by having them discuss the collage as a whole. Listen to how the client relates to the pictures and the people in the pictures.

How can you tell what is happening from the facial expression or body language?

What is difficult to read in the picture?

Describe how the person feels about the situation; do you agree with the facial expression or body language?

Do you think that the facial expression body language is appropriate?

Have you ever felt this way?

How would you respond to someone who is feeling this way?

Practice Settings:

School