

Our Mission

Our mission is to help children increase engagement, build and strengthen relationships and learn to enjoy interactions with those around them.

Why choose Aha Connections?

We are certified professionals with years of experience and knowledge in research-based best practices for children with challenges in social interaction, communication and play. We believe in combining approaches to create an individualized plan for each child. We truly believe in using a family centered approach, building a partnership coaching and collaborating with parents towards goals for their child. The family is the child's first connection to the world!

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Aha Connections

"Where one connection leads
to another"

Services for young children
with autism who want to
learn through play.

Is your child In need of increasing self confidence in social situations?
Is your child having a difficult time reading social cues & navigating social situations?
Does your child need positive social experiences connecting with peers?
How about letting them practice during a structured facilitated playdate or playgroup?

All children want to have friends and participate in play however, it is not always easy for all children to connect and have fun with peers. Learning how to co-regulate interactions, read and respond to non-verbal communication, initiate and share play ideas takes practice. Play sessions that can be preplanned, and scaffolded to maximize success will promote self confidence and allow for a more positive social connection with peers.

Bring A Friend Play Session

Our *Bring a Friend Playdate* is for children that are not ready for a group. During these sessions your child can bring a friend to play with while they practice skills such as:

- Initiating Play, Sharing Play Ideas and Maintaining Play
- Cooperating, & Compromising
- Reading and Understanding Social Cues/Situations
- Empathy - Perspective Taking
- Sharing & Turn-Taking - Collaborating
- Identifying and Using Nonverbal Communication
- Personal Space
- Increasing Self-Confidence
- Making and Maintaining Friendships

Creating Connections Social Playgroup

Our play based social group, focuses on helping children create friendships and learn the hidden expectations of working and playing together in a group. Our groups are designed by combining concepts from the Social Thinking® methodology and using DIR/Floortime® strategies. Each session provides opportunity for children to practice and strengthen social competencies and help build healthy foundations for social, emotional, and intellectual capacities, all through fun creative play. We support and encourage each child's individuality, spontaneity, and silliness, allowing each child to bring their full selves to play and grow in the group. Our social playgroup is designed for children who can participate in a group independently.

1:1 Play Session

The goal of the 1:1 play session is to help each child develop the foundations needed for connecting with others. We begin by focusing on building a trusting relationship, creating a comfort zone in which a back and forth flow can begin. Building a relationship in an environment where a child feels safe, made to feel accepted, understood and respected is most productive for learning and growing. As the flow of initiating and responding, (both through verbal and non-verbal communication) increases, opportunities are created within the engagements to co-regulate, problem solve, increase flexibility, expand imagination, share ideas and create a more dynamic relationship. 1:1 play sessions are for children age 7 and under.