

Social Roles - Identification

Socio-emotional development level equivalent to 3 - 7 years of age

Typical Socio-Emotional Capacities

- Clients increasingly look to the peer group as their social frame of reference
- Clients can move within familiar, supervised social contexts and manage transitions from one setting to another on their own
- Clients are able to adapt interaction patterns according to situational demands
- Clients have a notion of rules and social norms, but usually have little grasp of the underlying rationale and are not always able to apply rules on their own
- Clients have developed a sense of right and wrong (conscience) and know when they've made a mistake or done something that's against the rules
- Clients are easily overwhelmed and often unable to control their emotions and impulses in the face of strong environmental stimuli, emotional triggers or peer pressure
- Clients are able to engage in activities independently in a structured setting
- Clients are able to participate in occupational therapy; under the right conditions, productive employment in a sheltered workshop or social enterprise is sometimes possible

Typical Socio-Emotional Needs

- Clients increasingly want to spend time with peers
- Relationships and friendships with peers become increasingly important
- Clients want to compete with peers to assert their position within the group and gain social acceptance
- Clients want to distinguish themselves from others and assert their individuality by identifying with their gender-specific role and comparing themselves to peers/others
- Identifying with role models outside the peer group becomes increasingly important
- Clients are eager for affirmation and approval from role models
- Clients are eager to prove their social competence
- Clients are able to handle group situations if an authority figure is present to provide structure and ensure that rules are followed
- Clients want to be independent and navigate familiar social contexts and situations on their own
- Clients derive self-esteem and a sense of achievement from managing social interactions successfully, being better than peers and receiving praise for their behaviour and accomplishments

Examples of Typical Maladaptive Behaviour

- Clients may lack interest in interacting with peers
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- Clients may harm themselves or others in order to get attention
- Clients may obsessively check with authority figures before making even the most minor decisions
- Clients may tend to act impulsively, have little control over their emotion and have an exaggerated sense of superiority
- Clients may be afraid of making mistakes and lack self-confidence

General Aspects – SEO 4

- Clients may escape into a fantasy world (mythomania)
- Clients may endanger or place themselves in situations they can't handle by venturing out alone to assert their independence or explore the environment
- Clients may not follow rules unless a role model or authority figure is present
- Clients may try to assume the role of an authority figure and boss peers around or "tattle" on them ("Deputy Sheriff")
- Clients may push or overstep the limits of socially acceptable behaviour even though they know better and make feeble excuses for their behaviour
- Clients may withdraw or attempt to dominate peers without consideration for how their behaviour affects others
- Clients may consume excessive amounts of food, beverages etc.
- Clients may express emotional distress through somatic complaints
- Clients may regress and fall back into the oppositional behaviour and conflicts with authority figures more typically seen at the SEO 3 Level