

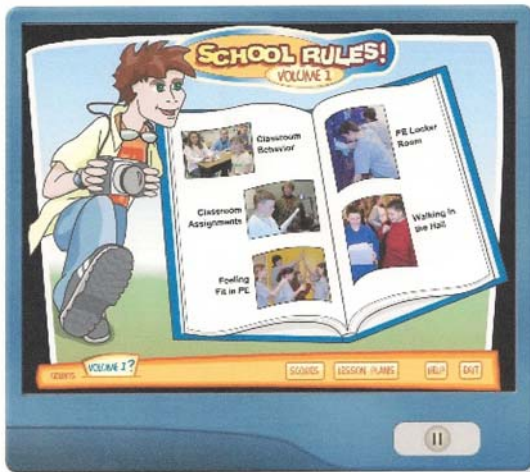


Social Skill Builder
Quality Learning Tools

InterAction

www.socialskillbuilder.com

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Click here to try out demos of
[School Rules! Volume 1](#) and
[School Rules! Volume 2](#)

Online Soon: Videos of Social Skill Builder ASA and ASHA Presentations

Video Modeling, Social Skill Therapy Techniques Discussed

Social Skill Builder founders Laurie Jacobs and Jennifer Jacobs presented and moderated seminars at the recent American Society of Autism Conference and the ASHA Schools Conference. Videos of the presentations, featuring video modeling and a roundtable discussion of social skill therapy techniques, respectively, will be featured on the Social Skill Builder website www.socialskillbuilder.com in the coming weeks. ■

School Rules! Software Models Acceptable Social Behaviors for Middle and High School Kids

Social Skill Builder offers two software programs to teach older children (of cognitive age 8-18) what to expect in and proper behaviors for the middle and high school environments. [School Rules! Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) help children to quickly improve organizational skills, sportsmanship, self-control, following directions and understanding the rules. Both programs allow parents and teachers to tailor the video sequences to match each child's individual skill level.

[School Rules! Volume 1](#) teaches acceptable behaviors during structured activities related to the classroom, group work and physical education. This volume also presents real-life video scenarios covering those parts of school life that are not part of academic programming, including hanging out with friends, hallway interaction, and the sensitive issues of the PE locker room and personal hygiene.

This CD-ROM is designed to produce quick results for children in middle school or high school with video segments demonstrating correct behaviors in such social and behavioral areas as: Listening • Organizing • Cooperating • Asking for Help • Bullying • Personal Hygiene • Sportsmanship • Transition • Self-Control and Academic Responsibility.

[School Rules! Volume 2](#) takes up where [Volume 1](#) leaves off; teaching social interpretation skills during unstructured

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School Rules! Software

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times when social rules are most challenging, like waiting in line, time management, conversation and just “hanging out.” The software is a great way to build social and organizational skills in children who run into difficulty dealing with these abstract and unstructured times.

[School Rules! Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) are available for \$89.99 each, or at a 10 percent discount as a package; \$161.99. Visit socialskillbuilder.com for demos of the software and ordering information. ■

Transitioning Ideas for Middle School

The transition from elementary to middle school is stressful for any student, but it can be even more challenging for the student with autism spectrum disorder. The school may be larger and more confusing to navigate. Kids change classes every period, and they often have “A Days” and “B Days,” with alternating schedules on those days.

Other differences can include a larger, noisier cafeteria with more students and confusion than they are used to. There will be different teachers for each subject and higher expectations for independence in class, more difficult homework, and greater social demands, such as cliques and flirting.

But, there will also be new opportunities in middle school, and careful planning can make the transition a success. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Meet your child’s teachers and administrators ahead of time, and arrange to tour the school so that your child feels comfortable finding their homeroom, the gymnasium, cafeteria, bathrooms, etc.
- Let your child practice opening and closing their locker.
- If your school asks for volunteers to get kids to their classrooms the first couple days, take them up on it – it helps you learn the school, get to know the teachers and students and offer your child assistance if they need it.
- Consider packing separate book bags for A and B days with the materials needed for those classes.
- Keep your child’s lunch account funded so they are not embarrassed or flustered by running out of money.
- An extra set of text books at home can be a life-saver. You can also request that a teacher keep textbooks in the classroom if your child has difficulty bringing the correct one.
- If your child struggles with the basics of math or language arts, consider hiring a tutor before and during the first semester
- Communication with teachers is vital.
- Remember that the transition to middle school is hard for all students! Your child’s teachers and school will do their best to work with your family to make it successful. ■



Back-To-School Savings!

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Social Skill Builder, Inc.
PO Box 2430, Leesburg, VA 20177
info@socialskillbuilder.com
www.socialskillbuilder.com
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Here is a sampling of the many books available that speak to the challenges for the child with autism transitioning to middle school and into their teenage years

Recommended Reading

Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Helping Preteens and Teens Get Ready for the Real World by Teresa Bolick, Ph.D. Peppered with examples of dilemmas AS children have interacting with teachers and parents, this book focuses on strategies for turning common AS traits like preoccupations and routines into positive strengths with advice to make your AS child succeed.

How Rude! A Teenager's Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior and Not Grossing People Out, by Alex J. Packer, Ph.D. Discover "The 14 Commandments of Toilettiquette" and "proper techniques for spitting, scratching, sneezing, yawning coughing, hiccupping, nose-picking and zit-popping. Find out things you've always wanted to know, like why you should be nice to people you don't like and what to do when two of your friends aren't talking to you. Even addresses when a friend presses you to take drugs."

Also from Dr. Packer are the *How Rude! Handbook of School Manners for Teens* and the *How Rude! Handbook of Friendship and Dating Manners for Teens*. These include what to do when someone copies your paper, the best way to handle bullies and advice on friendship and dating.

Cliques, Phonies and Other Baloney by Trevor Romain, explains that a clique is a small, closely knit group of people who share things in common. The book shares tips for if you feel left out, how to spot phonies, the top 10 ways to keep your friends, important facts about friendship and popularity and, of course, tips for dealing with cliques.

Boy V. Girl? How Gender Shapes Who We Are, What We Want and How We Get Along by George Abrahams, Ph.D. and Sheila Ahlbrand. "Girls gossip; boys fight." "Boys are quiet; girls talk too much." This book discusses these and other gender stereotypes and shows how to get past other people's expectations and assumptions to find out who you really are.

NOTE: Parents should determine if the materials in these books are appropriate for their children. ■

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