

Purpose

Wonder Kids (WK) is a social skills group for children ages 5-21 which provides therapeutic and social relationship interventions designed to teach and enhance age-appropriate social skills for those who have an Autism Spectrum or Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder diagnosis. WK is a *step-down* from traditional Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) or other intensive behavioral health service which typically will teach the prerequisite skills necessary to benefit from a social skills group. WK may also be utilized as a stand-alone service or as an appropriate part of an intensive behavioral health discharge plan.

Wesley Spectrum bases autism treatment on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) because we value quality service and evidence-based practices. Our staff utilize data-based decision making, and positive, proactive strategies in treatment. Wesley Spectrum is committed to continuous improvement in the services we provide, and we strive to create an environment in which children are able to build lifelong skills and staff are able to successfully transfer abilities. We hold ourselves accountable for treatment outcomes, and we support our clients in becoming more independent, responsible, and caring members of their community.

Wonder Kids focuses on:

- Developing age-appropriate social skills
- Generalizing learned skills
- Self-regulation and coping skills
- Engaging in the use of abstract thought in conversation
- Understanding intentions, motives, emotions, and perceptions of others
- Participation in interactive/cooperative play
- Appropriate and safe decision making
- Flexibility/response to change
- Resolving conflict appropriately
- Personal space/other appropriate social boundaries
- Self-awareness/eliminating socially inappropriate behaviors
- Maintaining attention and concentration in social situations
- Self-advocacy

Wonder Kids Locations

16055 Perry Highway, Bldg #3, Wexford, PA 15090
 121 Erhardt Drive, Penn Hills, PA 15235
 3117 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017

To learn more about Wonder Kids or any of the other Autism Services Wesley Spectrum has to offer, please contact our Centralized admissions department at 412.342.2270.

Wonder Kids

Therapeutic Social Skills Groups



**Providing high quality
autism services**



*The right care the right way
at the right time.*

WESLEY SPECTRUM®

Wonder Kids

What to expect...

- An individualized treatment plan developed and reviewed by your child's clinical treatment team (including family and other service providers) every 6 months
- Progress notes with activity schedules and data are provided to parents at the conclusion of each Wonder Kids session
- Opportunities to meet one-on-one with WK staff/supervisor to discuss ongoing treatment



- WK staff collaboration and consultation with external professionals who provide treatment related to your child's social development
- Scheduled observations nights where parents can see their child participate in a WK session



Wesley Spectrum is accredited through the Council of Accreditation

WK Referral Process

- A WS intake coordinator will conduct a phone screening for the purpose of determining if WK is an appropriate service for your child.
- You will be asked to provide a copy of your child's latest psychological evaluation recommending a social skills group.
- An intake coordinator will review the results of the screening and the evaluation. Eligibility is determined by reviewing these two documents to see if WK is able to meet your child's needs.
- After initial review, if WK eligibility criteria are met, a WK supervisor will contact you to schedule an intake meeting. During the meeting, the team will further decide if WK will meet your child's needs.
- If WK is appropriate, WSS will request authorization from the designated payer.
- Once WS receives authorization, your child may begin attending WK.

Please note that a recommendation from a prescriber does not guarantee admission into WK. Additionally, prior authorization from your child's payer does not guarantee admission into WK. It is the right and responsibility of WSS staff to determine eligibility for WK.

Eligibility Criteria

- Child has a current Autism Spectrum or Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder Diagnoses
 - Child is between the ages of 5 and 21
 - Child has Medical Assistance (MA)
 - Child is able to consistently attend WK, has reliable transportation, and can be dropped off/picked up on time
 - Child has a current, appropriate psychological evaluation recommending a social skills group for a set number of hours (up to 12 hours/week)
 - Wonder Kids screening and, if applicable, ISPT meeting must both show that child has been determined eligible and appropriate for entry into WK
- Wonder Kids benefits children with:*
- Minimal to no physical aggression
 - Minimal to no self-injurious behaviors
 - Independent toileting skills
 - The ability to socially communicate at an age appropriate level
 - No routine self-stimulatory behaviors that would prevent the child from engaging in session or be disruptive to group progress
 - The ability to succeed in a 3:1 setting

Please note, Wonder Kids is designed for children affected by Autism Spectrum or Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder Diagnoses who are not in need of a higher level of care or one on one support. This includes a high amount of TSS. If child has a TSS, TSS hours need to be minimal and in the process of decreasing towards elimination. The fading of TSS needs to be demonstrated by the BHRS team.