

How it works

The Secret Agent Society has fewer sessions than many other social skills programs, making it practical, cost-effective and reducing the risk of program drop-out.

Its various components make it easy for practitioners, parents and teachers to encourage and support the child. Features include:

- Nine weekly group therapy sessions to teach children how to apply computer game content to everyday contexts.
- Three month and six month follow-up sessions to encourage skill maintenance.
- Sessions with parents to show how to support children in using their social skills.
- Weekly tip sheets for teachers to encourage children's skills in the classroom and playground.

And the benefits?

Improved social skills are likely to:

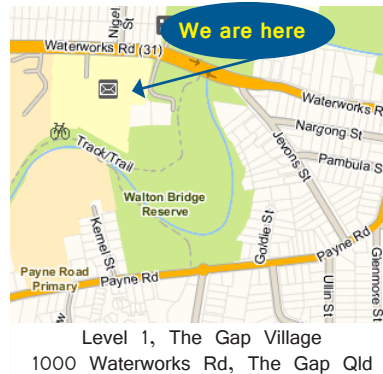
- Help build self-esteem in children with ASDs.
- Improve children's relationships with parents, siblings, peers and teachers.
- Improve children's academic performance.
- Reduce bullying and victimisation.
- Offset the development of depression in later years.
- Enhance the capacity of children to form friendships now and later in life.

Rebates may be available. Please visit our website www.youngmindsnetwork.com or phone (07) 3857 0074 for information on costs and registration



YoungMinds Health & Development Network is a psychology clinic that offers high quality professional services to adults, adolescents, children, couples & families.

All our psychologists have National Registration and are members of the APS.



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An innovative, evidence-based program for children with high-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders.

This program is being facilitated by professional psychologists at YoungMinds Health & Development Network



Introducing the Secret Agent Society

Building the social skills of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) requires a program that meets highly-specialised needs.

Teaching skills such as recognising emotions in oneself and others, expressing emotions in appropriate ways and how to get along with others is essential. Social skills programs used for the general population generally don't work for children with ASDs.

That's where the Secret Agent Society comes in.



A selection of the program's engaging teaching tools



What is the Secret Agent Society?

The Secret Agent Society is an innovative, evidence-based intervention that uses a suite of games and activities to improve the emotional understanding and social skills of 8-12 year olds with high-functioning ASDs.

This flexible system helps practitioners, parents and teachers address the social difficulties of children with ASDs by teaching children:

- How to recognise simple and complex emotions in themselves and others.
- How to express feelings in appropriate ways.
- How to cope with feelings of anger and anxiety.
- How to start, maintain and end conversations and play activities with others.
- How to tell the difference between friendly joking and mean teasing.
- How to deal with bullying.
- How to cope with making mistakes.
- How to cope with novel situations and ask for help when needed.

For more information or to book a place on the program please contact us on (07) 3857 0074 email: enquiries@youngmindsnetwork.com



How the Secret Agent Society is different – and Fun!

The Secret Agent Society creates a fun, engaging and non-threatening learning environment for children with ASDs.

The program features a computer game with animated characters and interactive missions that teach children how to recognise and control their emotions and cope with challenging situations.

The game also encourages self-paced learning, provides immediate feedback and minimises the need for real world social interactions while children are learning new skills - a source of anxiety for many with ASDs.

The game is complemented by a range of other strategic play activities. These include Secret Agent card games, ball games, role plays, a walkie-talkie game, foam darts game and board games.

Visual supports include colourful posters, stickers and portable "code" cards that help children learn and apply their new skills in everyday situations.

The evidence base

A randomised-controlled trial showed significant improvements in the social skills of children participating in the Secret Agent Society intervention. Participants showed greater improvements in social skills and emotional control, both at home and at school.

In fact, the social skills of 76% of child participants improved to within the range of typically developing children. Improvements in social functioning were also maintained five months after the program ended.