



Professional Day

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## Promoting Social Skill Development in Children with CHARGE

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### Presenter Information

Megan is the school psychologist for the Deafblind program at Perkins School for the Blind. Additionally, she is completing her doctorate degree in school psychology from Central Michigan University. While at CMU, she was a member of the CHARGE syndrome research lab and has presented on social and behavioral issues experienced by many children with CHARGE syndrome. She is interested in the social development of children with CHARGE syndrome and is completing research on the development of social play in children with CHARGE syndrome.

### Presentation Abstract

Social skills include a variety of behaviors that allow individuals to engage in positive interactions with others. Children with CHARGE are often described as socially interested but socially immature. Children with CHARGE syndrome may experience delays in social skill development because of the multi-sensory impairment they often experience. Because of the limited information they receive through their senses, children with CHARGE often do not know how to act in social situations. Additionally, children with CHARGE often spend a lot of time in the hospital and may not have exposure to early social interactions that teach children how to appropriately play with other children. Finally, children with CHARGE syndrome are often medically fragile, so they may be inhibited from having social experiences. Without these experiences, children with CHARGE are unable to adequately develop social skills. To help promote social skill development, caregivers and teachers can provide explicit instruction on social skills. Additionally, they can provide opportunities to socialize with others to practice skills taught. The presentation will take an in-depth review of strategies to promote social skill development.

### Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to describe how social skills typically develop in children.
- Participants will be able to discuss how the multi-sensory impairment experienced by children with CHARGE syndrome impacts their development of social skills.
- Participants will be able to identify different activities to do with their children and/or students to facilitate the development of social skills.