

## SOCIAL SKILLS MODELING FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ELIGIBLE IN COMMON AREAS

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*Adolescents identified on the autism spectrum have difficulty interacting with peers on a social level in common area settings, such as the cafeteria. While they may feel a strong sense of social anxiety that stems from approaching their peers and engaging in a conversation, the use of role-play may be a tool to aid them that can increase peer interactions. Our pilot study evaluated the Managing Feelings lesson from the We Have Choices (WHC) curriculum using a single-subject, non-concurrent, multiple baseline model to determine if a functional relationship was present. Each of the three participants had a history of low positive social behavioral interaction in the cafeteria. At the conclusion of our pilot study, each participant's social behavior had improved and social interactions increased in common areas. During the course of the present study, the positive behavior of the participants increased in the range of 10 – 90%. Results are discussed in relation to utilizing WHC with adolescents, teachers, and parents.*