



LathamCenters

Passage to a brighter future

Proudly accredited by



Building Positive Relationships for People with PWS



PATRICE CARROLL, LICSW
PCARROLL@LATHAMCENTERS.ORG

OVERVIEW

-Types of Relationships

-Challenges

-Guardianship



TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS

- Family
- Platonic
- Romantic/Sexual



CHALLENGES

Fantasy relationships

- With **no** basis in reality
- With **some** basis in reality

Stalking behavior


- Victims of bullying
- Other instances of vulnerability

CHALLENGES...CONT'D

- When a good thing goes bad...
 - Not letting go
 - Mending after a breakup

3 REASONS FOR RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGES

Executive Functioning Disorder

- *Communication
 - *Processing speed
 - *Planning, adaptability, organizing
- 

How Big is My Problem?

5

Emergency

You definitely need help from a grownup (fire, someone is hurt and needs to go to the hospital, a car accident, danger).



4

Gigantic problem

You can change with a lot of help (getting lost, hitting, kicking, or punching a friend, throwing or breaking things, bullying).



3

Big problem

You can change with some help (someone is mean to you or takes something that is yours, a minor accident, needing help calming down).



2

Medium problem

You can change with a little help (feeling sick, tired, or hungry, someone bothering you, being afraid, needing help).



1

Little problem

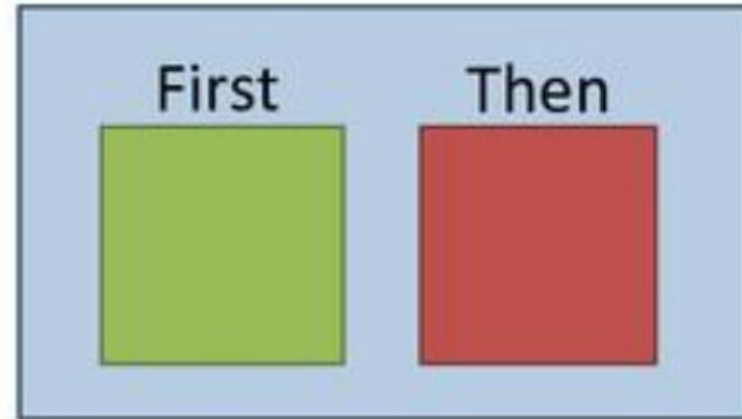
You can change with a little reminder (not being line leader, not winning a game, not taking turns, making a mess).



0


Glitch

You can fix yourself (changing clothes, cleaning up toys, forgetting favorite toy or blankie).



REASONS CONTINUED

Sensory Processing Disorder

- *Use the environment to support success
 - *Physical and mental discomfort
 - *Ability to communicate needs
- 

3 REASONS CONTINUED

Theory of Mind

How we see the world, relationships, all interactions

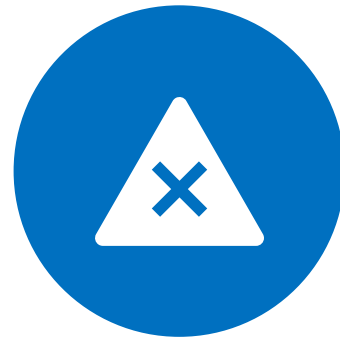
Understanding the skill deficit and teaching through modeling



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



* UNDERSTAND HOW
THE BRAIN WORKS



* DON'T EXCUSE THE
BEHAVIOR- EXPLAIN IT



LathamCenters
Passage to a brighter future

How to support safe social media use for individuals with PWS: "SOCIAL MEDIA"



Access to the internet is considered a human right, and when monitored, can be a helpful life tool.

S – Suggest appropriate websites and platforms. Certain platforms are safer than others. Research the platforms that the person in your life with PWS is using and make sure they are appropriate.

O – Opportunities are endless and opportunistic people are out there. There are many people online who do not have the best interest in mind of the person in your life with PWS. Know that often times an individual with PWS will love the attention he or she gets from his or her online "friends." In the past we have heard of examples in which:

- *Food seeking:* someone online will offer to bring food to someone's house. This enables them to get personal information, such as the house address.
- *Sexual attention:* someone online will ask to meet up at a designated location in hopes for an inappropriate encounter. This creates an immediate risk.
- *Friendship:* While social media can be a great resource in order to make friends with common interests, the most important thing is the interests are an appropriate commonality between the two.

C – Communicate safely. Talk to the person in your life with PWS about what information is "personal" and what information is okay to discuss with others. For example, nobody should be giving out personal addresses, last names, social security numbers, bank numbers, and locations, or anything that can be used in an online search to dig for more information.

I – Involve the person with PWS in conversations about safe social media use. In order for all parties to be on the same page about safe social media use it is critical to have a group discussion. This involves anyone who will be interacting with the person online during social media times, for example, a grandparent or day-program staff.

A – Adjust internet settings. As the "owner" of internet access you can adjust what sites are off limits and block them. Talk to your internet provider about which sites you want blocked. Many of the new internet providers also enable you to provide time frames in which internet is accessible. Create a schedule so that someone is not online all day, every day.

L – Learn passwords. Talk to the person in your life about a safe password. Know this password so you can gain access to social media sites in the event of an emergency. You may also be able to link accounts for certain sites.

M – Media can be dangerous. The internet allows us an endless amount of information. Not all the information is appropriate or safe.

E – Entertainment web sites can lead to other inappropriate platforms. Often times advertisements on social media sites, or pop-ups, can click-thru to sites that may otherwise not be blocked. Block all pop-ups on your internet platforms and make sure to keep an eye out during social media use times.

D – Demonstrate safe social media use. Lead by example.

I – Inappropriate conversations can lead to inappropriate meetings.

A – Anonymity can be dangerous. Online people are simply identified by screen names. This can lead to mean or inappropriate things being said that can cause pain and anxiety. Know that instances such as this may occur and have a plan for how to talk to the person with PWS about their value, and the inherent anonymity of the internet.

Contact 1: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ #: _____

Contact 2: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ #: _____

GUARDIANSHIP

- What does it cover?
vs.
- What doesn't it cover?



AND FINALLY....

Let's talk about sex...



QUESTIONS

