



Social Thinking Groups at Barrett Family Wellness Center:

Robin Antollino-Bukoski is our Social Group Coordinator. She has her BA in Psychology from Clark University, her Masters in Clinical Social Work from Boston College, and her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Psychology from UMass Boston. She has been working as a School Psychologist in Grafton Public Schools since 2001, where she regularly uses Michelle Garcia Winner's *Social Thinking*® as an intervention tool. She comes to Barrett with vast knowledge and experience working with elementary school aged children with a variety of needs and disorders.

Group Screening:

Each child will be required to do a one-time group screening. This allows Robin to get to know your child and the concerns that you have. Based on the screening, she will group similar students together into the appropriate program: Social Thinking® 101, Superflex®, and Social Thinking® Play Group. These groups will be confirmed with parents a week before the group starts.

**Also note that if your child attends *Grafton Public Schools*, they unfortunately cannot participate in groups due to the conflict of interest with Robin's position in that school district.

The Social Programs:

We Thinkers!: Social Explorers®

This is a very playful and engaging Social Thinking educational series that combines social thinking framework with music and dramatic play activities that appeals to early learners. This curriculum emphasizes using play while learning the basic social thinking concepts (e.g. Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings, the Group Plan, Thinking with Your Eyes, Body in the Group, and Whole Body Listening).

We Thinkers!: Social Problem Solvers®

This curriculum builds upon the concepts taught in Social Explorers group and explores more advanced Social Thinking concepts and vocabulary such as: Hidden Rules and Expected and Unexpected Behaviors, Smart Guess, Flexible and Stuck Thinking, Size of the Problem, and Sharing an Imagination.

Social Thinking® 101: Becoming a Social Detective

This is an introductory 8 week group for children in grades Pre-K-7 to learn Social Thinking® Skills. Social Thinking® is different than just learning social skills because it involves the thinking process *behind* the social skills so children can begin to understand why it is important to show expected versus unexpected social behaviors and how others perceive them. In other words, they will become Social Detectives! They, along with parents via email updates, will learn Social Thinking® vocabulary, as well as the three elements of play: set up, play, and clean up. Children will also learn how to determine the size of a problem (small, medium, large) and brainstorm expected ways to react.

Superflex® & The Unthinkables® Group

This is the second 8 week Social Thinking® group available for children in grades Pre-K-7. Once children have mastered Social Thinking® 101, we will expand upon their skills by learning about a fictional superhero character called Superflex®. Superflex® helps children defend against the Unthinkables® who try to "invade" children's brains to show unexpected behaviors such as: demonstrating inflexible thinking, not paying attention, having meltdowns for small problems and being bossy toward classmates, just to name a few! Children will learn strategies to combat these Unthinkables® with Superflex® and to think more *flexibly*. We will be using a variety of visuals and games to assist with their skill-building.

Social Thinking® Through Play Group

This is the third 8 week Social Thinking® group where children get to put their *Social Thinking® 101* and *Superflex®* skills into practice by *playing!* We will be using a variety of games and activities such as board games, Legos, and interactive games to help children utilize these Social Thinking® skills (e.g. in choosing which game(s)/activities to play, agreeing on rules, taking turns, dealing with conflict, and ending games in a positive way no matter who wins or loses).

2015/2016 School Year Schedule:

Fall Session - Saturdays: September 24, 2016 - November 19, 2016 (no groups on 10/8)

Winter Session - Saturdays: January 7, 2017 - March 11, 2017 (no groups 2/18 and 2/25)

Spring Session - Saturdays: April 1, 2017 - June 10, 2017 (no groups 4/15, 4/22 and 5/27)

Fees:

- One-time intake fee of \$30 due at time of intake
- After the intake, a \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a spot
- 8 week session is \$320
- A \$20 discount is available for currently registered group participants when they register and put down a deposit for the next session before the 2nd to last class of their current session
- Balances are due the Wednesday prior to the group's scheduled start date
- Grants may be available through:
Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts
71 Sterling Street
West Boylston, MA 01583
508-835-4278
<http://autismresourcecentral.net>

Additional Information:

- All groups are run on Saturdays.
- Groups are scheduled in 8 week sessions: Fall, Winter and Spring. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer make-up classes or refunds if you are unable to attend a class during your session. If Barrett has to cancel for any reason, a makeup class will be available on the Saturday(s) following the scheduled end of the session.
- In order to reserve your child's spot in a group, we require a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Payments are due in full by the Wednesday before the group is scheduled to start.
- Children will be placed in groups based on age and skill level. This determination will be made by Robin following the screening process.
- Robin will contact families at least a week before the group is scheduled to confirm the time of your session and which program your child has been placed in.

For more information, please contact our office at 508-898-2688, or Robin at Robin@barrettfamilywellness.com.

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