



Playground Strategy for Kids with Asperger's Syndrome: Hang Loose!

Do you have a student who initiates conversation in the speech room, but struggles on the playground? Ruthann Jarvis, a local SLP and the author of the book series [Strategies Offer Solutions](#), created a memory strategy that will cue a student of their "next step" for social skills on the

playground.

After each step is taught and practiced with the student, the strategy can be easily taught to adult supervisors, who can "cue" the student in real time situations. This results in better student success, reduced student frustration and embarrassment, and is a great method to help staff members understand a bit more about the specific steps needed for effective socialization.

Big Picture of the Strategy: The universal "hang loose" symbol is closely associated with the ASL sign for "play." Ruth pairs the use of this sign with the acronym "**PLAY**." When a student is at loose ends on the playground, the aide/teacher simply makes eye contact with the student and makes the "hang loose" hand sign. This reminds the student of the following strategy:

P = Pick a friend (Thought bubble: "Who would I like to play with?") Student training includes making an appropriate choice (age, interests, gender), busy vs. not busy, flexible thinking.

L = Look for that person and walk to them (Thought bubble: "I need to look around and find the person I want to play with and then walk to them.") Training includes personal space, reading body language, walking across the playground to the friend.

A = Ask them if they want to play (Thought bubble: I need to ask them "Can I play with you?") Training includes different ways to ask someone to play, eye contact, asking vs. joining.

Y = Yeah, let's play or **No** = Not today. (Thought bubble; "I think they will say yes, but if they say no it means "Not today." It does not mean "You are weird" or "I don't like you.") Train perspective taking, accepting no. If you get a no, the thought bubble is "I need to start back up with **P**: Pick a Friend" again.

When Ruth teaches this strategy, she maximizes success by training the students in the speech classroom, then practicing on the playground at a time where only the small group is on the playground, and then slowly generalizing to playground time. A quick in-service at a school staff meeting, accompanied by a "cheat sheet" or a role play, is typically all that is necessary to implement the strategy on the playground after the students are trained.



Teaching Expressive Language through Student Created Books

www.tarheelreader.org

Do your students have special interests? Are you looking for a way to help them to express themselves, while learning some basic skills about finding and using internet pictures? Are you interested in encouraging them to review the work of others and take a step toward revising their own work more effectively?

This site has a huge collection of student created books on a wide variety of topics. The books we reviewed were between 5 and 9 pages, and were high interest for elementary to high school students. The majority had one sentence or phrase on each page, but you could easily extend this based on ability. Although the site is linked to Flickr, our SLPs found more diverse pictures from standard sources such as Microsoft Office. We simply download those pictures to a file with the student before writing the text.



Wishing for an iPad 2?

PCSS is raffling one off at CSHA! Come visit us in Booth #321 in the ballroom. Entry in the raffle qualifies you for an ever popular Date IEP Calculation Wheel. We'll also have chocolate to rev you up for the

[exciting programs at CSHA.](#)

Our directors, Annette Crotty and Louise Valente, will be on-site to answer your questions about contracting with PCSS and would love to meet clinicians interested in working in public and nonpublic schools in Orange County and portions of San Bernardino, Los Angeles and northern San Diego.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Why Contract with [Pacific Coast Speech Services](#)?

- Intimate knowledge of local school districts and nonpublic schools: 23 years of focus exclusively on Orange County and the surrounding areas of San Bernardino, Riverside, Northern San Diego, and Los Angeles County.
- SLPs and SLP-As with experience and passion for the school setting. Each clinician is invested in providing quality, compliant services, as measured by our outstanding results on bi-annual satisfaction surveys.
- Heavy emphasis on clinician support, leading to clinicians who are better informed, more focused, and more committed to excellence.

Currently, we have space on our team for:

- Part or Full-time clinician for a position in a high school in central Orange County. Convenient to the 5, 22, and 91 freeways. Well managed district with manageable caseload.
 - Part or full time central Orange County position with preschoolers. Assessment experience/bilingual clinician preferred.
 - Part or full time near Diamond Bar with elementary and middle school students in a great district with manageable caseloads.
 - Questions? E-mail lvalente@epcss.net. We would love to chat!
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Jokes for Kids

Why did the basketball player go to the doctor?

He wasn't getting enough shots.

How do you clean a flute?

With a tuba toothpaste.

Where do kids learn their ABCs?

LMN-tary school.

Why did the egg get thrown out of the classroom?

Because it kept telling yokes.

What does a French cow say?

Moo-lala.