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We Thinkers- Volume 1

Curriculum Overview:

The We Thinkers! series helps children develop essential social skills through fun stories and activities. Volume 1 (Social Explorers) focuses on foundational concepts like self-awareness, perspective-taking, and social problem-solving, while Volume 2 (Social Problem Solvers) builds on these ideas. Each volume includes storybooks that bring these concepts to life through engaging adventures, followed by lessons and activities to reinforce learning.

Prerequisite Skills:

This curriculum is best suited for students with average to strong verbal language skills (including sign, AAC, or written language) and basic joint attention.

Below are descriptions of the story books, outlining their key themes and target concepts:

Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings:

This book teaches children basic information about the brain and heart, explaining how thoughts and feelings are interconnected.

The Group Plan:

This story helps children understand the concept of being part of a group, where the group often has a plan. It introduces the concept that we can think about something together as a group.

Thinking with Your Eyes:

This book helps children understand there is a purpose for observing others and the environment. It emphasizes how we use our eyes to gather information around us, show others we are thinking about them, and highlights the connection between looking and thinking.

Body in the Group:

This story explains how keeping your body in the group means maintaining a comfortable physical presence in a group. It describes how our body being physically present sends nonverbal messages, showing that we are thinking about the group and its plan.

Listening with Brain and Body:

This book teaches children that listening involves the whole body, not just the ears. It introduces the idea of whole-body listening, where we use our eyes, ears, and body to take in information and show others we are listening. It helps children understand how being present and aware of what's happening around them enhances their listening and connection with others.

Note: The original version of this book was titled Whole Body Listening—it is the same content, just a different title.

Example of goals to target from curriculum:

- Thoughts/Feelings - Understand Self
- Thoughts/Feelings - Understand Others
- Understand Group Plan
- Distinguish Group Plan vs. Own Plan
- Group Plan - Follows a Plan
- Eye Gaze - Observe Eye Gaze of Others
- Eye Gaze - Use Eye Gaze to Make a Choice
- Observing Others/Own Body in the Group
- Keeping One's Body in the Group
- Observing Whole-Body Listening in Others
- Using Whole-Body Listening