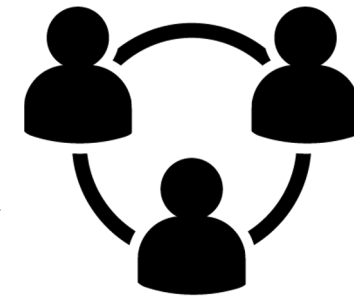# PRAGMATIC LANGUAGE DISORDERS

A pragmatic language disorder is a significant deficiency, which is not consistent with the child's chronological age in using or understanding language in social situations. Below is a list of some of the most common difficulties with pragmatic language skills to include examples and how parents can help. Please know that this list does not include all pragmatic language skills.

Pragmatic Skills	Examples	How can parents help?
greetings/ farewells	Using formal or informal greetings and farewells such as "hello", "good-bye", "good morning", "have a nice day".	Model the appropriate greeting/farewell whenever possible.
appropriate body language	Using appropriate body language with others such as sitting with the appropriate amount of space, and turning the body to a person when speaking.	Talk to your child about the appropriate amount of space between themselves and another when speaking. Also, encourage them to acknowledge the speaker by facing them when engaging in conversation.
making requests	Using appropriate language to express wants and needs instead of grabbing for preferred items. For example; "Can I have some ___?", "I want ____".	Model and discuss appropriate requests for items your child wants frequently. Encourage your child to request appropriately before giving them the desired object. Discuss appropriate reactions when immediate wants/needs are not met
interrupting	Knowing how and when it is appropriate to interrupt another who is speaking.	Practice how to politely interrupt others. Ex. "Excuse me...". Discuss situations where it would be appropriate to interrupt and ones where it would not be appropriate.
demonstrating affection	Understanding and demonstrating appropriate affection towards friends, family members and adults.	Talk to your child about appropriate vs. inappropriate affection towards others.
using polite forms	Using polite manners such as "thank you", "you're welcome", and "please".	Encourage your child to use polite forms throughout the day.
problem-solving social situations	Working through social problems while demonstrating appropriate reactions and realistic solutions. Ex. not getting along with friends, disagreeing with a teacher or having an argument with a sibling.	Ask your child about their relationships with their friends. Is there anything that they are angry about? Are they confused by any of their friends behavior? Help them work through these feelings to come up with solutions to social situations.