

**LathamCenters**

# RELATIONSHIPS IN PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME



PRESENTED BY

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# » **GOALS OF THIS WORKSHOP**

Understanding core needs and challenges in PWS relationships requires specialized knowledge. This workshop equips staff with essential strategies.

We'll explore how to foster authentic connections while ensuring safety. Your role combines educator, supporter, and advocate responsibilities.



# The need for connection and belonging

## Universal Desire

People with PWS seek friendship and romance like everyone else. Their emotional development shapes relationship depth.

## Emotional Benefits

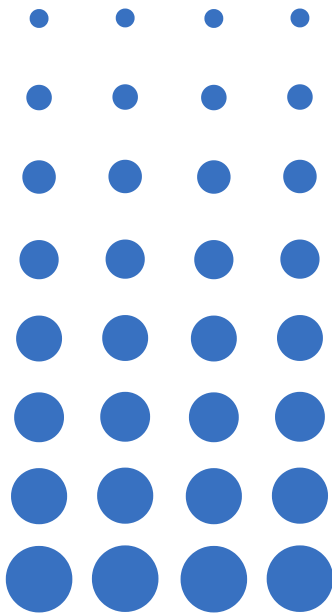
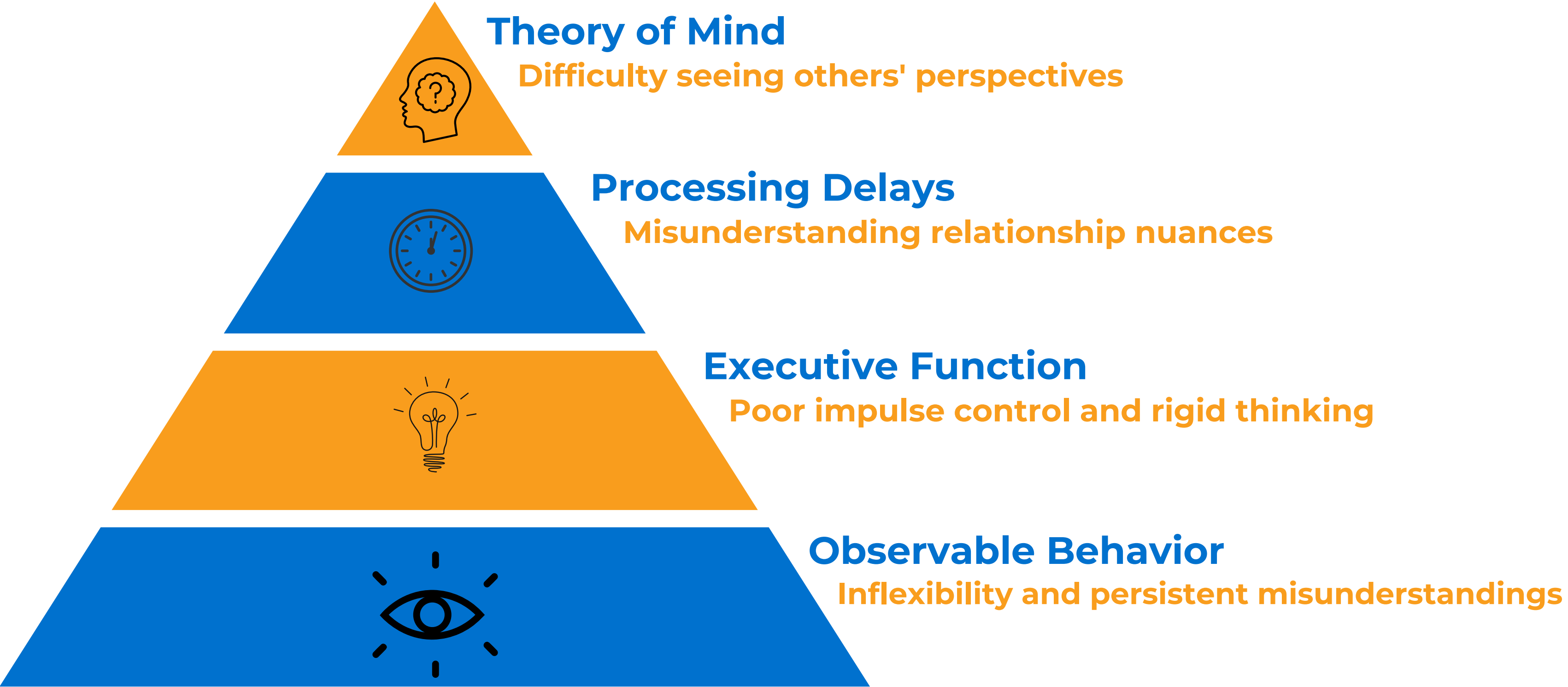
Connection reduces anxiety and isolation. It builds confidence and self-worth through positive interactions.

## Protective Factor

Meaningful relationships can buffer against depression and anxiety. They provide purpose and joy.



# CHALLENGES: THEORY OF MIND AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTION



# SENSORY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PROCESSING

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## **SENSORY OVERLOAD**

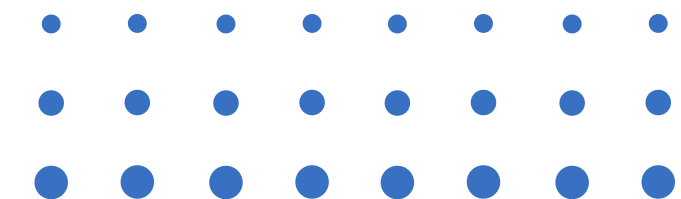
Can trigger anxiety, meltdowns, or social withdrawal in social settings.

## **SOCIAL MISREADING**

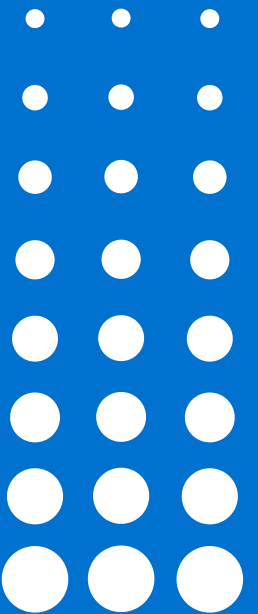
Misinterpreting cues leads to inappropriate responses or rejection.

## **HELPFUL STRATEGIES**

Sensory modifications and social stories improve regulation and understanding.



# THEORY OF MIND AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS



## Modeling

Staff demonstrate healthy boundaries, consent, and problem-solving skills.



## Balanced Risk

Potential heartache weighed against personal growth and enjoyment.



## Safe Opportunities

Create supported environments for social connection and learning.



## Skill Building

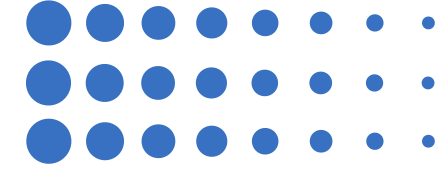
Role-play, peer mentoring, and structured group activities provide practice.





# SUPPORT

## after setbacks



### Emotional Response

High anxiety can trigger outbursts after rejection or relationship problems.



### Validation

Acknowledge feelings while gently correcting misperceptions.



### Skill Building

Focus on learning opportunities rather than punishment.

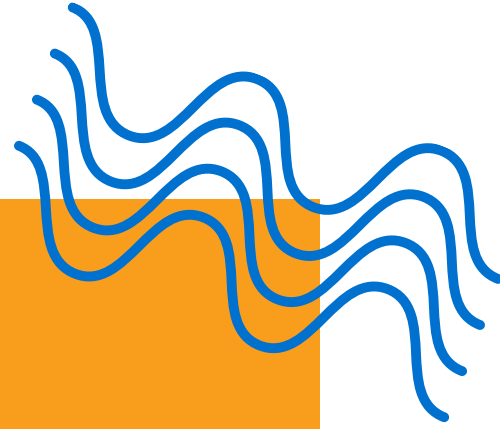


### Consistency

Staff remain calm anchors during emotional turbulence.







# Empowering Choice and Family Preparation



## Scaffolded Choice

Build agency through supported decision making. Balance autonomy with safety needs

## Family Tools

Equip parents with resources for boundary discussions.  
Create frameworks for sexuality education.

## Practice Scenarios

Rehearse potential dating situations. Develop joint plans for future relationships.



## BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS TOGETHER



### Commitment

Staff dedication to creating safe,  
inclusive environments



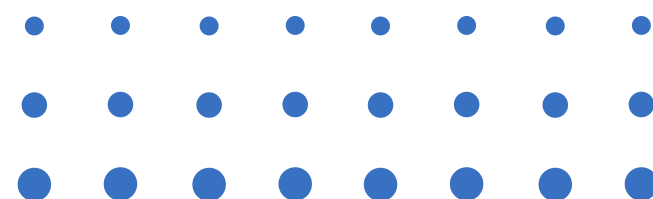
### Potential

With guidance, people with  
PWS can enjoy fulfilling  
relationships

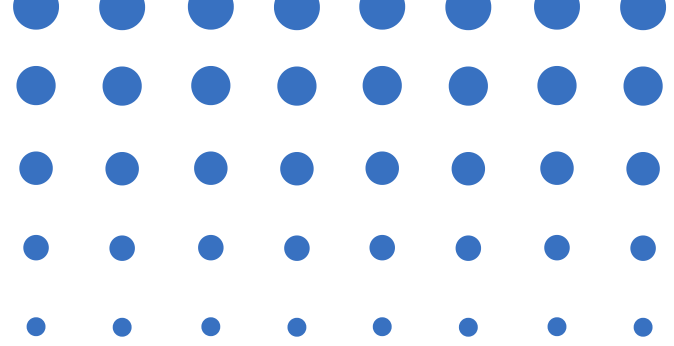


### Impact

Support goes beyond preventing  
failure to enabling growth







THANK YOU  
QUESTIONS

