



## **WANTED:Your Ideas for Social Learning Opportunities**

We welcome your ideas for Social Learning Opportunities funded through Autism Ontario's Potential Programme.

### **Who can submit ideas?**

Individuals, families and community service providers can submit ideas for Social Learning Opportunities.

### **How do you make an idea for a Social Learning Opportunity a reality?**

Follow these steps if you have an idea you'd like to submit for a Social Learning Opportunity:

1. Discuss your idea with the Family Support Coordinator or Community Events Coordinator in your region.
2. If your idea fits the criteria for Social Learning Opportunity objectives, then you will be asked to complete a Social Learning Opportunity Idea form. If your idea does not fit the criteria for Social Learning Opportunity objectives, other suggestions may be provided.
3. Completed Social Learning Opportunity Idea forms will be reviewed by a regional Social Learning Opportunity Review Committee. All regional Review Committees will use a standard Rating Scale to determine the strongest ideas for their community. [Click here to view the Social Learning Opportunity Rating Scale](#), which may assist you when completing your Idea form.
4. Prior to approval, the strongest ideas will reviewed by the Director of Family Support and Programs and the Community Resource Manager at the Provincial Office of Autism Ontario.

Please Note: submitting an idea will not guarantee that your child/family will be accepted to participate in the Social Learning Opportunity.

For reasons of safety and to ensure maximum program benefit for all involved, there will be limitations on the number of participants for each Social Learning Opportunity. Prior to enrollment, some Social Learning Opportunities may also require participants to undergo pre screening for eligibility and/or suitability.

### **Where are the Social Learning Opportunities happening?**

Social Learning Opportunities funded through Autism Ontario's Potential Programme are happening across the province. Depending on the capacity of programs, participation is open to all.



## **INTRODUCING: Social Learning Opportunities**

### **What are Social Learning Opportunities?**

Families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) often limit their participation in social activities, or choose not to participate at all, because their community lacks the kind of supportive environment that would enable them to enjoy experiences that other families find easier to access. These everyday experiences may include swimming, skating, or even seeing a movie in a theatre.

Many families affected by ASD also seek specialized programming for their children, such as social skills groups or sibling support groups, but quickly discover that availability is limited. By establishing Social Learning Opportunities, Autism Ontario's Potential Programme is able to respond to some of these challenges.

### **Social Learning Opportunities represent unique activities and programs that are:**

- Generated by ideas received from families and community service providers;
- Needed in the community because they are not offered anywhere else or are not accessible for various reasons, such as lengthy wait-lists or lack of adequate funding; and
- Able to make accommodations so individuals with ASD and their families can be included and accepted.

Autism Ontario strongly values Social Learning Opportunities as an important way to contribute to quality life experiences for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families.

### **We Need Your Help**

If you are a parent or a community service provider, please share your ideas for the types of programs and activities needed by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and/or their families in your community.

Some examples of Social Learning Opportunities are:

- Social skills groups for individuals with ASD
- Recreational activities for individuals with ASD and/or their families
- Health and fitness activities for individuals with ASD
- Community outreach
- Specialized programs: ex., Summer-to-School Transition Program or Sibling Support Group

**Social Learning Opportunities are one aspect of Autism Ontario's Potential Programme.**

*To find out about Social Learning Opportunities currently offered near you, visit your local chapter online.*



### Head Office

Marilyn Thompson  
Director of Family Supports and Programs  
1-800-472-7789 x234  
marilyn@autismontario.com

Katherina Symes  
Community Resources Manager  
1-800-472-7789 x226  
katherina@autismontario.com

### South West Region

*(Chatham-Kent, Sarnia Lambton, Windsor Essex)*

Windsor: 519-250-9410  
Sarnia: 519-333-6866

#### Family Support Coordinator

rcpwindsor@autismontario.com

#### Andrea - Community Events Coordinator

andrea@autismontario.com

*(Grey Bruce, Huron Perth, London)*

London: 519-433-3390  
Huron Perth: 519-271-7730 x 227

#### Family Support Coordinator

rcplondon@autismontario.com

#### Asia - Community Events Coordinator

asia@autismontario.com

### Hamilton Niagara Region

*(Brant, Hamilton Wentworth, Niagara)*

Hamilton: 905-528-8476  
Niagara: 905-682-2776

#### Karen - Family Support Coordinator

karen@autismontario.com

#### Tara - Community Events Coordinator

tara@autismontario.com

### Central East Region

*(Durham, Peterborough, Simcoe, York)*

York: 905-780-1590  
Simcoe: 705-252-7429  
Durham: 905-723-8405  
Peterborough: 705-748-0910

#### Tiffany - Family Support Coordinator

tiffany@autismontario.com

#### Shona - Community Events Coordinator

shona@autismontario.com

### Toronto Region

1-800-472-7789 x 236

#### Sarah - Family Support Coordinator

sarah@autismontario.com

1-800-472-7789 x 223

#### Erin - Community Events Coordinator

erin@autismontario.com

### Central West Region

*(Halton, Peel, Waterloo, Wellington)*

1-800-472-7789 x 236

#### Sarah - Family Support Coordinator

sarah@autismontario.com

#### Ashlee - Community Events Coordinator

ashlee@autismontario.com

### South East & Eastern Regions

*(Kingston, Prince Edward, Ottawa, Renfrew)*

Kingston: 613-549-7027

Ottawa: 613-230-6305

#### Anne - Family Support Coordinator

anne@autismontario.com

#### Jan - Community Events Coordinator

jan@autismontario.com

### North East Region

*(North Bay, Saulte Ste Marie)*

705-476-5437

#### Jayne - Family Support Coordinator

jayne@autismontario.com

#### Valerie - Community Events Coordinator

valerie@autismontario.com

### Northern Region

*(Thunder Bay, Sudbury)*

Thunder Bay: 807-577-4876

Sudbury: 705-222-5000 x 2685

#### Loni - Family Support Coordinator

loni@autismontario.com

#### Valerie - Community Events Coordinator

valerie@autismontario.com



**2. Who will benefit from your idea and how?**

*May include children, teens, parents, siblings, etc.*

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**3. During what time of the year would your idea take place? How often would it occur?**

*Such as every week day for a certain number of weeks, once per week, once per month, once per year, etc.*

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**4. How much do you think it will cost to implement your idea?**

*Cost of materials, cost to rent equipment, cost to rent space, hire staff, etc.*

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*Please complete the following questions to the best of your ability. Please feel free to contact the Family Support Coordinator or Community Event Coordinator nearest you for assistance.*

**5. Could donations of materials or services be arranged to lower expenses for your idea?**

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**6. Suggest local community service provider(s) that could potentially partner with the Programme to implement your idea.**

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**7. Can you name families affected by ASD who you know would support your idea?**

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**8. Does your idea meet Autism Ontario policy criteria for safety, insurance coverage, and adequate levels of supervision for individuals with ASD?**

*List any possible concerns.*

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**9. Please list the names and contact information for volunteers who would be willing to assist with the implementation of your idea:**

**Volunteer Name**

**Phone/Email**

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**Idea submitted by:**

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*Please print clearly*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Identified Lead for this proposal:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print clearly*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

*For Autism Ontario Staff Only:*

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved                      Date reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Approved                Reason: \_\_\_\_\_