



## **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.*



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