

PEERS Social Skills Training for Teens on the Autism Spectrum

PEERS or the **Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills** is a 14-week evidence-based social skills training for motivated teens on the Autism Spectrum, in grades 7 to 12, who are interested in learning ways to help them make and keep friends. During each group session, teens are taught important social skills and are given the opportunity to practice these skills in session during activities (e.g. playing sports, board games, etc.). Parents meet simultaneously and are taught how to assist their teens in making and keeping friends by providing feedback through coaching during weekly socialization homework assignments.

Enrollment is limited. Regular attendance is imperative. Parent participation is required.

Date: Tuesday Evenings (Tuesday, March 31st – Tuesday, June 30th)

Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm

Location: Autism Ontario – Niagara Region Chapter (36 Page Street, St. Catharines)

Topics of Instruction:

- How to use appropriate conversational skills
- How to find common interests by trading information
- How to appropriately use humor
- How to enter and exit conversations between peers
- How to handle rejection, teasing, and bullying
- How to handle rumors and gossip
- How to be a good host during get-togethers
- How to make phone calls to friends
- How to choose appropriate friends
- How to be a good sport
- How to handle arguments and disagreements
- How to change a bad reputation

Pre-requisites of Application:

- Have problems with friendships
- Have a diagnosis of Asperger's or High Functioning Autism with good verbal skills
- Teens are in grades 7 to 12
- Teens must be interested in attending the program
- Teens must agree to participate in the program voluntarily
- Parent commitment to attend

Application Process:

- Follow the link below to register for a 15-minute phone screen:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zy4b8MJdNwS3Sd7TOMkiSKgj3NBI5VsTt6k3K0DAnMY/viewform?usp=send_form
- Complete a 15-minute phone screen to determine eligibility (March 10th, 11th, or 12th)
- Complete and return your enrollment packet (due March 16th)
- Parent and teen come in for a 1 hour intake appointment to determine if our program is appropriate for you and your teen (March 19th, 20th, or 23rd from 4:00 – 9:00pm)
- Payment of Program Fee: **\$300.00 members \$400.00 non-members**

For additional information about PEERS: <http://www.semel.ucla.edu/peers>

If you have questions please contact:

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