



**POTENTIAL
PROGRAMME**



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INTRODUCING: Social Learning Opportunities

What are Social Learning Opportunities (SLO)?

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;
- Able to make accommodations so individuals with ASD and their families can be included and accepted;
- Designed for children and youth with ASD under the age of 18 years and their families/caregivers.

Where are the Social Learning Opportunities happening?

Social Learning Opportunities funded through Autism Ontario's Potential Programme are happening across the province.

Autism Ontario strongly values Social Learning Opportunities as an important way to contribute to quality of 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 i.e. Summer to school transition programs or sibling support groups

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?

If you have an idea for a Social Learning Opportunity, discuss it with the Family Support Coordinator or Community Event Coordinator in your region.

- If your idea meets the criteria for a Social Learning Opportunity, you will be asked to complete a Social Learning Opportunity Idea form. If your idea does not meet the criteria for Social Learning Opportunity, other suggestions may be provided.
- Completed Social Learning Opportunity Idea forms will be reviewed by a Regional Social Learning Opportunity Review Committee. All regional review committees use a Standard Rating Scale to identify the strongest ideas for their community. Please ask your Family Support Coordinator or Community Event Coordinator for a copy of the rating scale, which may assist you with completing your idea form.
- Once reviewed by the Regional Social Learning Opportunity Review Committee, the strongest ideas will be forwarded to the Director of Family Supports and Programs and the Community Resource Manager at Autism Ontario Provincial Office for consideration.
- The Community Event Coordinator or Family Support Coordinator from your region will inform you of the outcome of your proposal.

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

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

Social Learning Opportunities are one aspect of Autism Ontario's Potential Programme. To find out more about Social Learning Opportunities currently offered near you, please visit your local chapter online.



Name of SLO idea:

Region: Durham

Special Notes:

(e.g., venue information, event information, etc.,)

Venue:	
Prospective Dates:	
How many? Who Benefits?	
How Often/ what season?	
Estimated Cost:	
Local Community Service Providers who can help?	
Families w/ ASD who support idea? <i>(note: a minimum of 5 families need to be listed here)</i>	
Safety issues (ie. Insurance required)	
Contact Information for volunteers willing to assist	
Idea submitted by: (+ contact info)	
Identified Lead:	

Extra notes:

Thanks for taking the time to share your ideas! Please email this form to Christa Sawyer, Community Event Coordinator for the Durham – Peterborough Region: christa@autismontario.com