



Secret Agent Society

Simcoe County District School Board, in partnership with Autism Ontario and Kerry's Place, is excited to offer Secret Agent Society (SAS). SAS is a 9 week, multi-component social skills intervention designed to improve the emotional understanding and social skills of high-functioning 6 to 12 year old children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

SAS captivates children with its espionage-themed games and eye-catching resources. An animated computer game, Helpful Thought Missile action game, Challenger board game and Secret Message Transmission Device game have all been designed to help children learn new social and emotional skills in a fun environment.

Parents and schools are an integral part of the group program and receive resources and support to help young 'secret agents' develop and practice new skills at home and at school.

Topics of Instruction:

- How to recognize simple and complex emotions in themselves and others
- How to express feelings in appropriate ways
- How to cope with feelings of anger and anxiety
- Talking and playing with others
- Dealing with bullying and teasing
- How to cope with making mistakes, changes in routine and feelings of uncertainty
- How to handle new situations and learning to ask for help
- Understanding what it means to be a good friend
- Solving social problems

What are the participation requirements?

- Child must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Have difficulties establishing and/or maintaining friendships
- Child must have verbal communication skills and an IQ within a normal range (or above)
- Child must be able to participate in a group setting without additional support beyond that provided within the program.
- Child and at least one caregiver are able to attend weekly sessions for a 9 week period.
- Demonstrates emerging social skills (interest in engaging with peers, attempts to verbally communicate, manages emotions in a non-aggressive way) and an interest in building relationships with same-aged peers
- Children must be between 6 to 12 years of age.

When will SAS run?

- SAS consists of 9 consecutive weeks of program with a six month follow up session as well.
- Child groups will take place from:
 - Thurs. Oct. 19, 2017 – Thurs. Dec. 14, 2017
 - Two groups will be set and take place sometime between 4:00 – 7:00pm
- Parent Information sessions will take place simultaneously during the child sessions at the dates and times above.

Where will SAS take place?

Barrie, Ont.
School Location TBD

What is the cost of SAS?

- The program will be fully subsidized by Simcoe County District School Board

Who will be facilitating SAS?

- Jamie Read, Autism Ontario Family Support Coordinator
- Alison Passmore, Autism Consultant Kerry's Place Autism Services
- Simcoe County District School Board Consultants

How do I register for the SAS program?

- Please complete and initial application at:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZH49V0PV2E-z2gxkrcTrNZmyAalHGdlMre6TJiGxhxpUNEVQMzhOV0dTMzAxRU1FWk8zUk85SFc3UC4u>
- You will be contacted in early September 2017 for an initial phone screening
- Please note that only children who meet the participation requirements will be eligible for the program
- If the program is not suitable for your child, we will attempt to provide a referral.
- If you have any questions, please contact:

Jamie Read
705-252-7429
jamie@autismontario.com

