



PEERS Social Skills Training for Teens on the Autism Spectrum

PEERS (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 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. Classes are on Thursday evenings at the Autism Ontario Office.

Topics of Instruction:

- How to use appropriate conversational skills
- How to find common interests by trading information
- How to appropriately use humour
- How to handle rejection, teasing and bullying
- How to handle rumours and gossip
- How to be a good host during get-togethers
- How to make phone calls to friends
- How to be a good sport
- How to handle arguments and disagreements
- How to change a bad reputation (by investigating one new extracurricular activity)

Pre-requisites of Application

- Teens must:
 1. have friendship problems
 2. have a diagnosis of Asperger's or High Functioning Autism with good verbal skills
 3. be in grades 7 to 12
 4. be interested in attending the program
 5. agree to participate in the program voluntarily
- Parent participation is required.

Application Process

- Call the office at 807 622-9713 and request the PEERS facilitator to complete a 15 minute phone screen to determine eligibility by Feb 10, 2012.
- Fill out the enrolment package that will be sent to you, and return it Autism Ontario Office by mail (425 N. Edward Street, Northwood Park Plaza), fax (807 622-3980) or e-mail (loni@autismontario.com).
- Come in (parent and teen) for a 1 hour intake appointment to determine if our program is appropriate for you and your teen.



Contact:

807 622-9713 or loni@autismontario.com

Autism Ontario, 425 N. Edward Street, Northwood Park Plaza, Thunder Bay