

Social Skills Group Policies

Registration

Parents/Caregivers must sign up their child **for each group session**. Registration for a previous group session does not guarantee a placement in the next group session. Forms are available on our website at www.theautismproject.org. You may download the forms and mail to The Autism Project.

A registration fee of \$15.00 is required upon receipt of application. Your child WILL NOT be considered for a group without a completed registration form.

Grouping

Groups are formed based on the applicants' ages and ability levels. Placements in classes take into consideration children's age, ability, and specific environment where the child will have the most success.

Confirmation of placement will be via e-mail, mail or telephone.

Cancellations

Our programs rely heavily on planning for your child's participation. Attendance is crucial to sustain program existence. Cancellations must be made within 24 hours prior to a scheduled group. To report an absence, please call Jill at 785-2666, ext. 1011 with child's name, and the group he/she attends. After two absences, program participation will be reviewed and may result in loss of placement for that session. Children on the waiting list will be eligible for openings.

The Autism Project Program Payment Policy

All group participants need to show payment prior to the start of classes. Payment can be made by proof of approval for RI Medicaid funding (Katie Beckett), cash, check or credit card. Participants in the process of Katie Beckett approval can secure their participation with a credit card.

Due to limited space we regret that all children may not be able to attend a particular session. The Autism Project will establish wait lists for groups exceeding capacity.

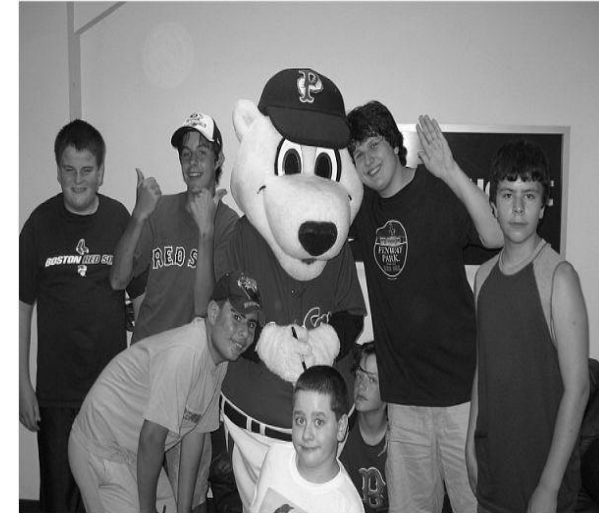
****Class days and times are subject to change and participants may be assigned a different group based group dynamics following the start of groups.**

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1516 Atwood Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919



Social Skills Programs



Winter 2010 Session
January 25 – May 21, 2010

For more information call
Jill at 401-785-2666 ext. 1011
or e-mail jill@theautismproject.org

Registration Deadline
January 8, 2010





The Autism Project's Social Skills Programs

Take a Bite! (Ages 4 & up) **WEDNESDAYS**

An occupational therapy and language-based group that includes trying new foods and textures through the use of music and literacy activities.

Yoga (Ages 5-21) **MONDAYS**

Participants ages 5-21 will learn self-calming skills such as breathing, while developing core strength and sensory and movement integration.

Move and Groove (Ages 4-18) **SATURDAYS**

A social group designed to teach children the fundamental skills of play and leisure activities. Reciprocal play activities will be used to help promote positive peer relations. Visual supports, environmental structure, and a creative curriculum will enhance children's level of understanding and participation.

Leaps and Bounds (Ages 4-10) **WEDNESDAYS**

A social group to teach joint attention, group dynamics, social rules/expectations, and expressing thoughts and feelings about shared experiences. Visual supports including social stories, schedules, cue cards, physical boundaries and scripts will be used to enhance meaning and promote generalization of skills.

Game On! Karate (Ages 5-18) **FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS**

Game On! is a group for children and teens looking to improve their functional skills in different sporting activities. In addition to emotional regulation, communication, following game rules, and teams-manship, participants will work on coordination, core strength, balance, and endurance. Winter 2010 session's activity is karate.

Club Jr. (Ages 10-14) **THURSDAYS**

This pre-teen group is designed for children who can effectively communicate basic wants/needs, call attention to others, protest appropriately, and initiate simple conversations. Participants will learn effective problem solving, social rules of being a part of a group, and how to think of others. Schedules and various visual supports will enhance the children's abilities to share thoughts and respond to others conversations. Community outings may be planned for some groups.

Club Jr. Life Strategies (Ages 10-14) **THURSDAYS**

Participants will learn life skills in a highly structured setting. Independent skills will be the focus using hands-on activities. The participants will practice being part of a group, listening to others, expressing independent thoughts, and following instruction. They will gain exposure to varied leisure activities including arts & crafts, cooking, and games. Participants will also learn how to be an integral member of a community group.

The Club (Ages 14-19) **FRIDAYS**

The Club is a safe and engaging place for teens to become integral members of a group as they discuss and participate in community trips. Participants learn social communication skills required to foster friendships, and learn appropriate social rules for effective interactions (interrupting, compromising, negotiating and listening). For one group it may be restaurant manners, for others it may be dating. Conversations and leisure interests are enhanced and promoted by facilitators.

Creative Expressions (Ages 8-18) **TUESDAYS**

A social communication group in which participants learn group dynamics, social rules, effective peer interactions and functional skills for group participation and conversation. Students will work together on creating specific art projects. Group location: Figgy's in East Greenwich.

Girls Night Out (Ages 9-12 & 13-17) **TBD**

This group offers girls in different age groups opportunities to enhance their self-awareness and esteem through activities like beauty salon, movie night, dinner club, etc. Monthly meetings planned.

Social Thinking Program (Ages 5-18) **TUESDAYS**

Adapted from Michelle Garcia Winner and Stephanie Madrigal's work, these groups teach participants how to "think socially." *Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking* teaches communication competency for children ages 14 and up; *Social Detective Agency* is for children ages 10-15. *The Superhero Academy* is for children ages 5-12. Now covered by RI Medical Assistance. Scholarships available.

Adult Community Group **TBD**

Designed for young adults to interact with each other once a month at designated community locations. Participants are responsible for the cost of each activity.

Winter 2010
January 25 — May 21, 2010

(14 weeks)

New longer session format

- Groups occur between the hours of 4:00-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday & from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 on Saturdays.
- All participants will be grouped according to interests, age, and abilities.
- Children may start a group at any time during a session if space permits.
- Move & Groove, Leaps & Bounds, and Social Thinking will also be offered in Middletown.

For more information, please visit
www.theautismproject.org or call Jill at
401-785-2666 ext. 1011 or e-mail
jill@theautismproject.org