

Jan. 31- May 19, 2012

(14 week session. Excludes weeks of February 20th and April 16th 2012)

- Groups are typically 1 hour long and occur between the hours of 4:00-8:00 p.m. weekdays and from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.
- All participants will be grouped according to interests, ages, and abilities.
- Children may start a group at any time during a session if space permits.

For more information, please visit www.theautismproject.org or call Sue Connole at **401-785-2666 ext. 1005** or e-mail sueconnole@theautismproject.org

Applications are available on-line at:
www.theautismproject.org

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 session. Applications are available on our website at www.theautismproject.org. You may download the forms and mail or fax to The Autism Project, or fill out the electronic version and email it.

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. Placement in classes take into consideration children's age, ability, and specific environment where the child will have the most success. Group assignments may change during a session based on group dynamics.

Confirmation of placement will be made via e-mail, mail, or telephone at least one week prior to group start date if applications are handed in by the deadline.

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.

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1516 Atwood Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919



Social Skills Programs

For individuals with **ASD**
and other communication &
developmental challenges



Winter/Spring Session
January 31– May 19, 2012

For more information call
Sue at 401-785-2666 ext. 1005
or e-mail
sueconnole@theautismproject.org

Registration Deadline
December 23, 2011





The Autism Project's Therapeutic Groups

Curtain Call (Ages 10-16) **MONDAYS**

Co-facilitated by a teaching artist from the Trinity Repertory Company, youth are provided with tools to help them learn, communicate, and build self esteem. Each class will be packed with activities that use the imagination, the body, and the voice. Silly warm-ups encourage laughter and camaraderie. Fun improvisation games require role play, conversation initiation, and partner work. Comedic and dramatic scenes and short plays allow the participants to perform in a supportive environment.

In Harmony (Ages 10-16) **MONDAYS**

The RI Philharmonic Music School is teaming with us to provide a motivating experience through which children can improve their communication, understanding of emotions, regulating their body, and social interactions using music as the medium. This group provides a meaningful sensory environment for children and also promotes recognition and expression of emotions.

Ages 6-9: Music Makers

Ages 9-12: Drumming

This group is held at the RI Philharmonic Music School, 667 Waterman Avenue, East Providence.

Social Thinking Program (Ages 5-18)

TUESDAYS

Adapted from Michelle Garcia Winner and Stephanie Madrigal's work, this language based, cognitive learning approach, teaches participants about the "why" behind social behaviors. Social Thinking groups differ from "social skills" teachings by examining the thinking behind being social.

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.

Placement and grouping is based on the applicants' ages and ability levels as well as familiarity with curriculum.

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.

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

A social group for "emerging social thinkers" that teaches joint attention, group dynamics, social rules/expectations, and expressing thoughts and feelings about shared experiences. This group introduces Social Thinking concepts and vocabulary to participants with use of visual supports including social stories, schedules, cue cards, physical boundaries and scripts to enhance meaning and promote generalization of skills.

Teen Talk (Ages 14-17) **WEDNESDAYS**

The emphasis of this group is to help young teens understand the development of social relationships. Age appropriate topics are discussed, i.e., peer pressure, self-care, dating, etc. Members practice social and relationship building skills. Separate groups will be held for males and females.

Club Jr. (Ages 10-15) **THURSDAYS**

This group is designed for children with Aspergers's Disorder, High Functioning Autism, or similar social disabilities. Community outings take place throughout the session. Skills that are taught and reinforced include: how to be a part of a social group, conversation skills, thinking about others in a group, being flexible, reading social cues, playing games as a group, and expected behaviors for being part of a peer group in the community. Club Jr. provides opportunity for friendship and fun in a supportive group using schedules and visual supports to enhance the children's learning.

**** All social skills groups incorporate the theory and vocabulary of Social Thinking, adapted from Michelle Garcia Winner.****

Club Jr. Life Strategies (Ages 10-18)

THURSDAYS

A leisure group where members participate in biweekly community outings. The purpose of this group is to help each member learn and practice basic functional social skills. This group targets the skills necessary for being part of a peer group in a variety of settings.

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

Focused on increasing confidence and improving social interactions, The Club is a safe and engaging place for teens to become integral members of a group. Participants learn social communication skills required to foster friendships and learn appropriate social rules for effective interactions (compromising, negotiating, listening). **The Club** participates in community outings and promotes leisure interests. **The Club: Just Dance** offers the opportunity to learn popular dances often featured at proms, birthdays and weddings while working on the social and communication goals described above.

Friday: The Club

Saturday: The Club: Just Dance

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

Game On! is a group for children and teens to work on developing self regulation skills. Areas emphasized include communication, following game rules, teamwork, coordination, core strength, balance, and endurance.

Saturday location: Karate-Do Club in Warwick

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.

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

FRIDAYS 1x per Month

This group offers girls in different age groups opportunities to enhance their communication, self-awareness and esteem through a variety of activities in the community. The girls negotiate their activities based on interest.