

## **Virtual Children's Friendship Training**

Children's Friendship Training is an evidence-based, group-format, parent-assisted social skills intervention for children ages 6 to 12. It has been proven effective with verbal children who have Level 1 or Level 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and has been used and studied for over 20 years with more than 1,000 families.

Children's Friendship Training is a nine-week, evidence-based social skills intervention for motivated children who are interested in learning ways to help them make and keep friends. During each group session children are taught crucial social skills and are given the opportunity to practice these skills in session during role-play and play activities.

Parents will be taught how to assist their children in making and keeping friends by providing feedback through coaching during weekly socialization homework assignments designed to build on skills practiced in the sessions.

### **Topics of instruction:**

- How to 'play detective' to find common interests
- How to join a group of kids at play
- How to handle rejection, teasing, and bullying
- How to be a good host on a play date
- How to be a good winner
- How to be a good sport
- How to show respect to adults
- How to make phone calls to friends

### **What are the participation requirements?**

- Child must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (Level 1 or Level 2)
- 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 virtual group setting without additional support beyond that provided within the program
- Child 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
- Child must be between 6 to 12 years of age
- Child must be interested in attending the program

## When will Children's Friendship Training run?

**Wednesdays, Oct. 14 – Dec. 9, 2020**

Session One - 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Session Two - 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

## Where will Children's Friendship Training take place?

### **Virtually**

Meeting invitations will be sent to families each week.

## What is the cost of Children's Friendship Training?

Children's Friendship Training is fully subsidized by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB).

## Who will be facilitating Children's Friendship Training?

Applied Behaviour Analysis Support Workers, SCDSB

## How do I register for the Children's Friendship Training program?

Please complete an initial application by Oct. 7, 2020 at 4 p.m. by following the link below using the Mozilla Firefox web browser.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZH49V0PV2E-z2gxkrcTrNZmyAalHGdlMre6TJiGxhxpUNVkzQURQUzFMTVBKTFk4SVFYRkdEUk1MSi4u>

If needed, you will be contacted for an initial telephone interview to assess the appropriateness of the program for your child.

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:

Crystal Gronc

ASD After School Social Skills Program Coordinator

[cgronc@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:cgronc@scdsb.on.ca)

