# Social Skills Groups for Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Social skills groups offer therapy that is effective in helping individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) develop social interaction skills. Therapy group participants have the opportunity to observe and practice using social skills and receive feedback.

At the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), we strive to identify innovative strategies to increase group members' application of new skills outside of the clinic and to enhance the efficacy of our interventions.

### What is involved in social skills groups?

Although the format can vary, group sessions generally consist of instruction in and practicing targeted social skills. Social skills groups may also use video modeling, role-playing, social coaching and skill practice outside of the group sessions (i.e., "homework"). Additionally, parent training is often a key component in promoting social skills growth.

#### Who runs the social skills groups?

At CARD, groups are led by an interdisciplinary team of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, clinical social workers and clinical psychologists, offering the opportunity for more comprehensive treatment of social needs.

#### Who may participate?

CARD's social skills groups program consists of a core set of therapy groups that target specific age ranges and developmental levels. Groups are available for children with ASD, ages 6 to 18 years old.

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#### **Contact Information**

## Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

To find out if your child could benefit from a social skills group, ask your CARD provider or call **443-923-7630**. To schedule an appointment, please call toll-free at **888-554-2080**. TTY users, please contact us at **443-923-2645**, or dial **711** to make a Maryland Relay call.

#### KennedyKrieger.org/CARD

**Physicians and Healthcare Professionals** To make a referral, call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403**.

Main Location 3901 Greenspring Avenue Baltimore, MD 21211

For information about other locations, please call the numbers above.

Mailing Address 707 North Broadway Baltimore, MD 21205

We are all born with great potential. Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

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