

Social Skills Group

Research notes that a social impairment is a key diagnostic indicator of autism spectrum disorders. Treatment programs which target peer interactions are necessary to develop the skills for maintaining conversation, taking perspectives, playing appropriately, controlling emotional expression, negotiating conflict, and experiencing intimacy. Without these experiences in childhood, establishing a positive adult experience is difficult

To address this need TACA Hawaii in conjunction with the Creative Connections Foundation pleased to offer a 8-week semi-structured social group for adolescents with High functioning autism spectrum disorders. Children will receive a 120-minute bi-weekly therapeutic group targeting specific and developmentally appropriate social skills. They will also have an opportunity to generalize their skills in natural community settings.

Social skills addressed will include but are not limited to:

Turn Taking/Sharing/Cooperation/Perspective Taking/ Empathy

Social Thinking – The thoughts, emotions and expected behaviors inherent to the socializing

Interpersonal Skills – Ability to relate, communicate and share in a peer-to-peer interaction

Emotional Regulation – Ability to remain calm and focused and engaged/ Impulse Control

Self –Awareness – Self-concept, Self-esteem, awareness of self in relation to others

GROUP DETAILS

For: Children ages 12-19 with High Functioning Autism/ Aspergers

Dates: Monday & Wednesdays in June 2 & July 23 plus 2 Friday or Saturday outings

When: 1000am-1200pm

Where: 1 Ohana Nui Way Honolulu, Assets School Campus

Cost: FREE due to the gracious funding of TACA Hawaii *

To apply: Complete application form and submit by **May 19th** mail, fax or email to:

Dr. Gaby Toloza 40 Aulike Street #411 Kailua HI 96734

Fax: 1-888-482-4119

Email: gtoloza@mac.com

Got questions? Contact Dr. Gaby Toloza at (808) 348-5056 or via gtoloza@mac.com

*Space is limited to 10 children on the Autism Spectrum and 3 typical peers volunteers. Participants must be able to attend 90% of sessions. Group will consist of developmentally matched peers. All other applicants will be placed on a waiting list for future group programs.

**If you have a sibling without special needs or a family friend who would like to serve as a peer model, we have limited spaces for these children and would love to have them join us.