Autism Speaks Community Grants
Social Skills

Acting Antics
Morgantown, PA
www.actingantics.org

*Developing Social Cognition Through Theater*
The basic premise of Acting Antics is to use live theater as a means to teach social cognition skills. Students participate in theater games, improvisation activities designed to develop the reading of non-verbal cues, build confidence and stimulate appropriate interaction. Development of short scenes requires taking the character's perspective, and provides a great opportunity to teach this difficult skill in a fun and non-threatening manner.

Judson Center
Royal Oak, MI
www.judsoncenter.org

*PALS (Peer Assisted Lunch Social)*
Children and teens with autism often do not receive the kind of social skills support they need. The Judson Center brings social skills intervention and staff training to ten local schools (elementary, middle and high schools). The intervention, a "Peer Assisted Lunch Social," uses the research-based model of "integrated play groups" to integrate students with autism with their typically developing peers.

Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation
Cleveland, Ohio
cms.clevelandclinic.org/childrenshospital

*Social Skills Program for High Functioning Children with ASD*
This program uses evidenced based social skills training and parent therapeutic support to provide social skills programming for high functioning children with autism. Children with ASD are accompanied by a behavior therapist or coach for help in generalizing skills learned through structured social skills training into the inclusive camp setting. The coach attends with the children to help facilitate social interaction and generalization of skills, and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst observes the child's social behaviors in their school setting during lunch and recess prior to the start of the group. Parents are trained in utilized techniques that result in consistent supports across several different environments.

The Kelberman Center
Utica, N.Y.
www.kelbermancenter.org

*Awesome Summer Days Camp: Social Skills Training & Peer Coaching Embedded in a Recreational Summer Camp Experience*
This program takes place at The Chadwicks Education Center that is owned and operated by United Cerebral Palsy. The program works with each family to: (1) evaluate the child's current level of social functioning; (2) identify social skills that need to be learned or practiced; (3) modify and implement curriculum as needed to meet the child's needs; (4) practice skills during inclusion activities with Big Brothers/Big Sisters campers; and (5) test progress at the close of camp.
The Kennedy Center
Trumbull, Conn.
www.thekennedycenterinc.org

Stepping Out
This is a pilot program for children ages 12-15 that offers social skills training including peer modeling and inclusion opportunities. The program includes weekly social skills training with concurrent parent training. In addition there are tailored seminars on the importance of social skills training in schools. The program teaches skills in priority areas critical to self-esteem and independent living options such as job-related components and accessing employment.

Western Reserve Speech and Language Partners
Beachwood, Ohio
wrslp.com

Friendship in Teams (FIT)
This is a new program that combines social skills intervention with adaptive physical fitness instruction. FIT is designed to foster in each student confidence in his or her ability to join and interact effectively in groups of typically developing peers. Students ages 4-18 are divided into three groups: Ages 4-7 focuses on social skills and activities that children can use on the playground and at recess; Ages 8-11 focuses on social skills and physical activities that teach and practice skills typically needed in a physical education environment; and Ages 12-18 focuses on socials skills and physical activities, as well as age appropriate games involving technology and less traditional sport activities.

Carey Services
Marion, IN
www.careyservices.com

Face Place Theater Project
This program specifically targets the social and communication skill challenges faced by individuals with ASD. Based on the work of Drs. Parasuram Ramamoorthi and Andrew Nelson, the Founders of the Applied Theatre Research and Autism Network, the program uses acting techniques and applied theater theory to improve these skills in a safe and entertaining venue.

Millard Public Schools
Omaha, NE
www.mpsomaha.org

Interactive Social Education Experiences
This project teaches social communication skills to high school students. Students with ASD are placed in Friendship Groups consisting of two students with AS/HFA, a typically developing peer who has completed prior ASD awareness training, and one teacher. Friendship Groups attend weekly social communication skills workshops taught by the teachers in the group, using curriculum tailored for each student. Homework requires personal communication between the students with AS/HFA and the typical peer in each Friendship Group. All Friendship Groups, along with the parents of students with AS/HFA, attend monthly social outings in the community to generalize their newly learned skills.

Best Buddies New York
New York, NY
www.bestbuddiesnewyork.org
**Best Buddies LI Middle and High School Expansion Project**
This project enhances the lives of students with developmental disabilities by providing them with opportunities for one-to-one friendships with their non-disabled peers. The Best Buddies program strengthens efforts to serve youth with autism through student leadership training, community engagement and public awareness activities.

**Seacoast Mental Health Center**
Portsmouth, NH
[www.smhc-nh.org](http://www.smhc-nh.org)

**Peer-Meditated Social Skills Training**
This program pairs children with ASDs with middle and high school-aged youth. Incorporating the latest evidence-based ABA techniques, this program provides children and young adults with ASDs with opportunities to learn specific actions and activities by imitating and modeling the behaviors of their peer mentors while engaging in a number of confidence building activities.

**Marin Autism Collaborative/Lifehouse**
San Rafael, CA
[www.marinautism.org](http://www.marinautism.org)

**Teen Recreation Integration Program (TRIP) for Young Adults with ASDs**
This program provides young adults with ASDs with the opportunity to get involved in community recreation activities that interest them. The program allows these young adults to interact with their peers, and helps them develop the necessary social skills to become more independent. Activities throughout the month are led by a recreation coach, who also helps participants with social skills development. The TRIP model creates an environment in which the participants with ASD and the teen mentors can learn from each other. The program helps participants begin to develop both independence and a peer network, and thereby increase social skills, confidence, and overall satisfaction with their lives.

**Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Treatment and Research Institute for ASDs (TRIAD)**
Nashville, TN
[kc.vanderbilt.edu/TRIAD](http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/TRIAD)

**TRIAD Social Skills Summer Camp**
This camp provides an integrated day camp with specialized social skills curricula targeted at different age groups (7-11 years old, 12-14 years old, and 15-21 years old). The camp also promotes community awareness and education, provides training activities for future professionals, and helps children better understand and interact with their peers and siblings with autism. During camp, peers (both siblings and non-siblings) participate in an ongoing training program to address sensitivity, acceptance, and strategies for including brothers, sisters, and friends of all abilities in social opportunities.