

Social Skills Groups for Children and Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder

Social skills programming at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) focuses on promoting social connections for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using an interdisciplinary approach. Targeted areas include social pragmatic language, social communication, peer relationships, play skills, self-advocacy, regulation and executive functioning skills.

Our goal in social skills programming is to provide autistic individuals with the tools to navigate social relationships, while striving to value individual differences, motivations, preferences and interests. This type of neurodiverse-affirming care improves outcomes by respecting individuality and autonomy.



What is involved in social skills groups?

Social skills groups involve a multimodal approach that may include the use of video modeling, role-playing, self-reflection, executive functioning strategies, group problem-solving, perspective-taking and shared book-reading. Additionally, parent training is often a key component in promoting social skills growth and ensuring that strategies learned at CARD are practiced at home and school, and in the community.

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?

We offer a core set of therapy groups that target specific age ranges and developmental levels. Groups are available for children with ASD, ages 5 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](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/CARD)

Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

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

Main Locations

3901 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211

1741 Ashland Avenue, 5th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21205

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

Mailing Address

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Baltimore, MD 21205



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