

Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society's

Play Centre Programs



PARENT HANDBOOK

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ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Founded in 2002, Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society is a not-for-profit, federally registered charity based in Vancouver, The Society has one mission: to enhance reciprocal social interaction, communication, imaginative play, and friendships between individuals on the autism spectrum and their typically developing peers.



OUR SERVICES

The Society creates, designs and delivers a variety of unique and innovative programs such as

Autism Demystification® Programs

VR Autism Demystification® Program

Friend 2 Friend Play Centre Programs

Online Autism Demystification® Course

Publications and Packaged Programs

Seminars, Conferences, and Training



PLAY CENTRE PROGRAMS

In the true spirit of play and friendships, the Play Centre offers individualized peer play intervention programs to children ages 3 through 14. The programs work to enhance the social, communication, emotional regulation, peer play and friendship needs of children with autism and their peers.

The Play Centre programs focus on five critical areas called "dimensions" of play they are:

Regulation: What strategies the player uses to regulate

Social Play: How the players play with other children

Communication: How the players communicate with others

Symbolic Play: How the player plays with materials.

Play Preferences: What are the player's natural affinities



PLAY CENTRE PROGRAMS

All Play Centre programs provide small (no more than 6) stable groups of children, that meet regularly to play, make friends and learn new skills. The groups are guided by highly trained Master Guides and Play Guides and supervised by Program Coordinators.

Play Centre Programs currently offered are:

Early Childhood Program (ages 3 to 6)

United Way School's Out Program (ages 6 to 12)

Home Learners Programs (ages 6 to 12)

Saturday Programs (ages 6 to 14)

Summer and Spring Break Programs (ages 5 to 14)



PLAY CENTRE PROGRAMS

Along with the weekly play groups sessions, we offer the following services at no additional cost as part of each novice players program:

Free Online Family Training

Registration information and support

Transition visit for players and families

Provide and review play questionnaire with family

Gather information on novice player

Free Programs for expert players

Design play sessions to support skill development

Design play materials and themes based on players' affinities

Collect baseline assessment data during each session

Provide written session notes for week 4, 8 and 22

Provide copies of all visual supports

Provide copies of printed materials

Provide individualized interim report week 13

Provide individualized interim progress report week 32

Provide FREE Autism Demystification® Program



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Families may request additional services (outside the services provided as part of the Play Centre programs).

The Society may provide additional services upon request from families. These services are only available to children currently attending our Play Centre programs. The additional services are provided on limited case-by-case bases, and may include:

- school observations and reports,
- consultation services,
- training services (school or home-based team),
- video recordings of sessions for assessment or training,
- school-based play group program

These services may be provided (time permitting) at additional fees. The fees for additional services vary, please contact the Program Coordinator.



REGISTRATION

New families are invited to join the Society once they fully understand the philosophy and programs offered. Therefore, new families are required to follow the pre-registration steps before registering their novice player. The steps are:

1. Take our FREE Family Online Training

www.friend2friendsociety.org/free-parent-training/

2. Speak with our Intake Coordinator friend2friend@shaw.ca

3. Register an Expert Player

www.friend2friendsociety.org/expert-players/

4. Have Payment Ready. We accept Autism Funding, Self Design, Ebus, Oak, and Orca or families may pay privately.

Registration Dates

June 1st - Fall Full Year Programs

Nov 1st - Spring Break Programs

Mar 1st - Summer Break Programs

May 1st - Returning Players Registration



FEES

The Society is a non-government funded, not-for-profit, federally registered charity. All programs are offered to the community at fees based on 1/3 the actual cost to the Society and vary depending on the program and our fundraising ability. Therefore, the Society must fundraise the other 2/3 of the funds required for these programs yearly.

CANCELLATION



The Play Centre programs take several weeks to design before the start of the programs. Matching children, recruiting and registering expert players, scheduling, hiring, and training staff, transition visits and designing visual supports. Therefore ***we do not accept cancellations after registration.*** We ask families to fully understand and commit to participating in the programs BEFORE registering players. Families wishing to **withdraw from the program after registering - full fees apply.**

POLICIES

In every environment, there are policies and procedures for the protection (health and safety) of all the participants. The following are the Play Centre Policies:

Arrivals and Departures

- contact the Master Guide ASAP player is absent or late
- drop off players at the door
- the door will be open 5 minutes before the scheduled start time
- pick up promptly at the scheduled time
- wait outside for the players to transition out together
- permit the Guides to assist players with their transitional needs
- caregiver/family member picking up players, please notify the Master Guide
- please do not attempt to discuss a player' or program at the door *"Not About Me, Without Me"*



POLICIES continued



Absence and Illness

- Players exhibiting any fever, vomiting, stuffy or a sore throat within a 24-hour period before play groups may not attend the session
- Players unable to attend school due to sickness are not well enough to attend the session
- Email the Master Guide if the player is ill
- Missed sessions cannot be refunded or made up

Snacks, Food, and Allergies

- Please report dietary restrictions or allergies at the time of registration.
- The play centre is a nut and scent free environment.
- Please do not send food without checking with the Master Guide.
- Please finish all snacks before entering the play centre.



POLICIES continued

Accidents, Medical Care

Minor cuts or bruises are attended to by the Master Guides and Play Guides who have first aid certifications. If at any time the Master Guide deems a player requires medical attention the family is called immediately. The Master Guide may also deem it necessary to call 911. In these cases, an incident report is created within 12 hours of the injury. Families may request a copy of the incident report.

Privacy and Confidentiality

- The BC Privacy Act is strictly adhered to within the Society
- No other adults/professionals are permitted to observe programs
- No pictures or videotape of the sessions are allowed
- We do not release any information or documentation to third parties
- We cannot discuss other players or families with parents
- We do not discuss players at the door

POLICIES continued

Aggressive Behaviours

The Play Centre programs are peer play interventions. Therefore, children who exhibit aggressive behaviours towards other children are not yet ready for Play Centre programs.

Aggression Toward Objects is reported to families via email. If these behaviours escalate, increase, or change in any way the Master Guide will call the family to discuss a plan.

Aggression Towards Play Guides is reported by email. If the aggression results in injury an incident report is completed. If the behaviour escalates, increases or changes the program may be cancelled.

Aggression Towards Other Players family is called immediately, and the child is sent home. If the aggression results in injury an incident report is completed and the program will be cancelled.

Families must report aggressive behaviours at the time of registration, failure to do so may result in program termination.



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