

STEP UP TO PLAY SKILLS

A program for students aged 5 to 7

Begins March 30, 2009

This program has been designed for all children who are at risk in peer relationship development. They would include children with Giftedness, High Functioning Autism, ADD, Turner Syndrome, Non Verbal LD and Asperger's, as well as children with no diagnosis in place.

Research tells us that the most successful individuals are those with positive, social, people skills and understanding. The goal of this program is to help your children develop pre social thinking through facilitated play which will lead to the motivation, conversation, and understanding needed to begin to have positive relationships and experiences with their peers.

We all want your child to succeed. To accomplish this, the program combines the elements of placement, intensity, duration, and follow up.

PLACEMENT

Your child will be screened in order to place them successfully with the most compatible match of therapist and child. There is a \$45 screening fee for the program. There will be 1 to 4 children in any given program depending on their need and skill level. A trained and experienced therapist will be working with your children in their grouping. Please **call** Sarina at 604-264-8481 to **book** your screening time.

INTENSITY

Your child will be working 2 times a week for 1 hour each time. Sessions will be split between one therapist working intensely with one to four children (depending on placement) to introduce and teach new play concepts, and when appropriate facilitating outings in a more natural setting to interact and practice the skills and understanding learned.

DURATION

Through an ongoing program your child will have the opportunity for continuous skill building and deeper understanding as they move from the Step Up to Play Skills program to the Step Up to Social Skills program.

FOLLOW-UP

In order to bring these new learned skills to a level of generalization in your child's life, each child will have their own communication binder. We invite parent input at all times either by writing in the communication book or by speaking with us privately when your child is not present.

Class location is in **Vancouver** at #370-2025 W 42nd Ave. 604-264-8481 or sarinak@shaw.ca

COST

The cost of the Step Up program is \$40 per hour for groupings of 1 to 3 and \$20. per hour for groups of 4 (only for children ready for this level of engagement), and a \$55. registration fee. All materials are included. This program falls under Ministry funding guidelines.

CLASS TIMES

Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Your child will need to attend 2 out of these days, **except** for holidays. Your child's class time will fall between 4:00 until 6:00 PM or between 6:15 until 8:15 PM please advise Sarina Kier of your preference. Winter Term runs for 8 weeks.

THE TEAM

The people involved in your child's Step Up to Social Skills program are Sarina Kier BA MA, Consultant/Program Director, Heather Awad , Aiden Sisler, Randall Gillis, Andy Dubiensi and Meanne Chan Facilitator/Therapists.

Sarina Kier BA MA

Sarina received her Master's degree in Integrated Special Education and Health. Sarina is a Health and Special Education Consultant in private practice in Vancouver. She has been involved in special needs education, health and advocacy for the past thirteen years. Sarina is a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the District of Vancouver and District Parent Advisory Council.

To set up your child's screening interview or to have any of your questions answered regarding this program please call **Sarina Kier** at 604-264-8481.

The following is a list of additional learning opportunities for your children:

- 1. Sarina Kier works as a Social Skills Consultant for home/community based programs.**
- 2. For children requiring social integration at various after school programs, Step Up therapists are available to accompany them and facilitate social understanding and interactions. This is usually most successful when done on the first day or two of the program.**
- 3. Supervised play dates can be arranged using Step Up therapists for therapeutic intervention and skill generalization.**
- 4. Lunchtime 1 hour sessions 2 times a week at your child's school by Step Up facilitators. This requires submission through your PAC and permission from your school.**
- 5. Ongoing monthly evening training sessions for parents to help them to facilitate their children's progress.**