

## School-Based Teacher-Facilitated Social Skills Training for Adolescents with ASD: The PEERS Program



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*The Help Group Summit ~ 2011*

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## Acknowledgements

**Funding Support**  
 NIMH U54MH066172 (Sigman, PI)  
 NIH T32 MH17140 (Leuchter, PI)  
 Shapel Foundation (Laugeson, PI)  
 Semel Scholar Award (Laugeson, PI)  
 Friends of the Semel Institute (Laugeson, PI)

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 Stephen Kapp  
 Kaelly Orenski  
 Kathleen Jorgenson  
 Maryya Kriv  
 Rebecca Fountain  
 Erin Cornack  
 Emily Chen, M.A.  
 Georgia Yu, M.A.  
 Dahl Tung  
 Jan Stolpe  
 Dawn Mitchell  
 Rosanna Rivero

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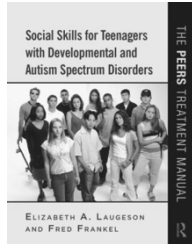
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## PEERS

*Program for the Education & Enrichment of Relational Skills*  
 (Laugeson & Frankel, 2010)

- Manualized intervention
- Teacher-facilitated
  - Teachers were trained and received ongoing consultation on PEERS
- Parent handouts were provided
- Class addressed core deficits for ASD
- Focused on friendship skills
- Taught ecologically valid social skills
- 14 week curriculum
  - 20-30 minute daily lessons in the classroom
- Conducted at Village Glen Middle School
  - HFA, Asperger's Disorder, PDD-NOS
  - THG-UCLA Autism Research Alliance




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## Overview of PEERS Curriculum

Photo of PEERS courtesy of Associated Press

- Conversational skills
- Electronic communication
- Choosing appropriate friends
- Appropriate use of humor
- Peer entry strategies
- Peer exit strategies
- Get-togethers
- Good sportsmanship
- Peer rejection
- Peer conflict
- Graduation



UCLA PEERS Program  
<http://www.semel.ucla.edu/peers/>  
 (310) 26-PEERS

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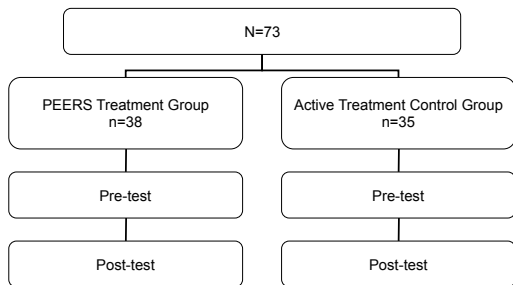
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## Study Design




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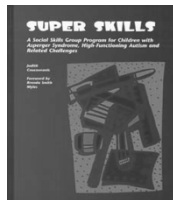
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## Overview of Active Treatment Control Group

### Super Skills

- Fundamental skills:
  - Eye contact
  - Voice volume
- Social initiation skills:
  - Starting a conversation
- Getting along with others:
  - Acknowledging others and following directions
- Social response skills:
  - Reciprocity

The Help Group VILLAGE GLEN SCHOOL  
 A place where students belong...  
 Fostering social & communication skills



(Coucounanis, 2005)

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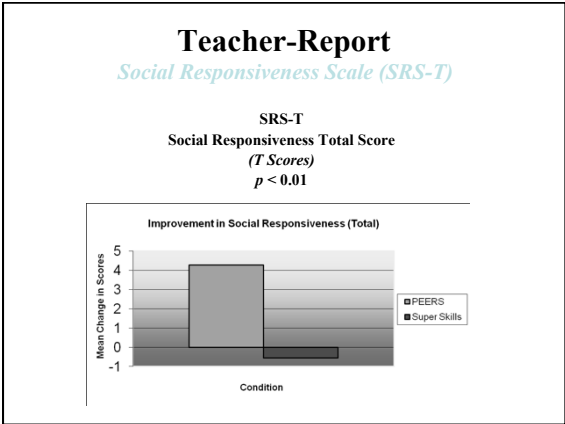
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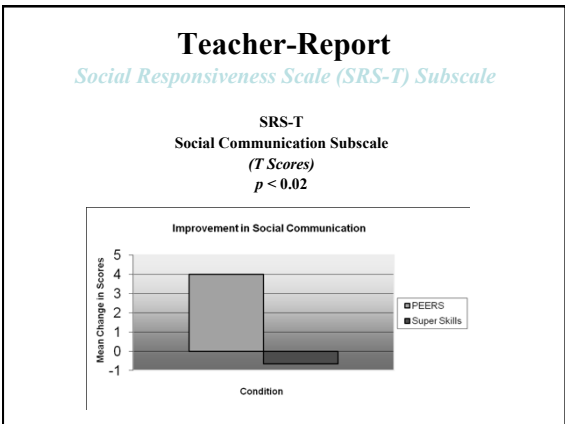
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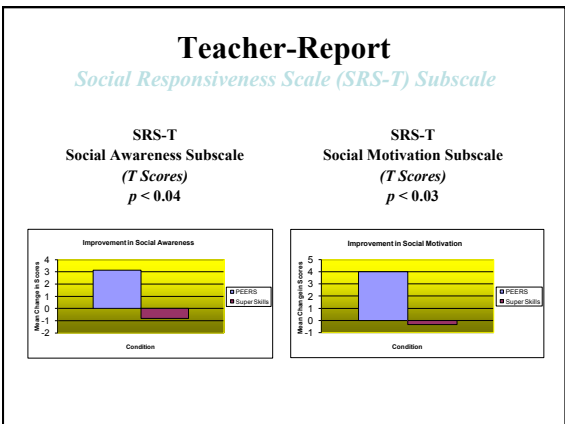
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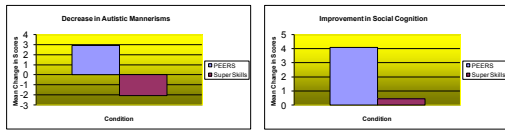
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## Teacher-Report

### Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-T) Subscale

SRS-T  
Autistic Mannerisms Subscale  
(T Scores)  
 $p < 0.02$

SRS-T  
Social Cognition Subscale  
(T Scores)  
 $p = 0.07$  (trend)




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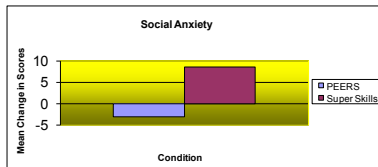
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## Parent-Report

### Social Anxiety Scale (SAS-P)

$N = 17$

SAS-P  
Social Anxiety  
(Raw Scores)  
 $p = 0.57$  (trend)




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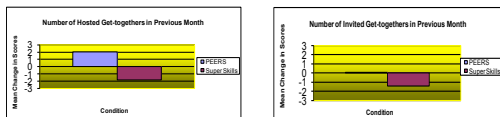
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## Adolescent Self-Report

### Quality of Socialization Questionnaire (QSQ-A)

QSQ-A  
Frequency of HOSTED  
Get-togethers  
 $p < 0.01$

QSQ-A  
Frequency of INVITED  
Get-togethers  
 $p < 0.02$




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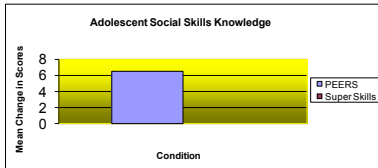
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# Adolescent Self-Report

*Test of Adolescent Social Skills Knowledge (TASSK)*

TASSK  
Adolescent Social Skills Knowledge  
(Raw Scores)  
 $p < 0.01$



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