



Elizabeth Laugeson, Psy.D., is the Director of The Help Group – UCLA Autism Research Alliance, which is a collaborative research initiative between The Help Group and the UCLA Semel Institute, dedicated to developing and expanding applied clinical research in the treatment of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Liz Laugeson is also a licensed clinical psychologist and a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. She is the Director of the UCLA Early Childhood Clubhouse Program, which is a social recreational program for preschool children with autism spectrum disorders; and is the Associate Director of the UCLA Parenting and Children’s Friendship Program. Dr. Laugeson was a two-time recipient of the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health and has been a principal investigator and collaborator on a number of NIH and CDC-funded studies investigating social skills training for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. Her current research interests are in social skills training for teens with high-functioning autism and Asperger’s Disorder. Dr. Laugeson has extensive experience in conducting social skills training for children from preschool to late adolescence and is the co-developer of an evidence-based social skills intervention for teens known as PEERS.