

Parents Tell Us: FRIENDS Groups Make a Positive Difference...

We continually refine and fine-tune **FRIENDS Groups** to ensure the best and most productive experiences for our participants. Feedback from parents is one of the most important measures of success for our group programs. Here's some of what we hear from parents about **FRIENDS Groups**:

"The therapists who co-lead the group taught our son easy visual and auditory techniques for regulating his body—and language he could successfully absorb and retain. I am thrilled to say that after only 6 months at FRIENDS Groups, our son has made rapid progress in building peer relationships at school for the first time."—Alicia W.

"FRIENDS Groups has been a safe place for my son to work on many of the social challenges he's had. The individual attention he gets every week has truly made a difference and the fact that his therapist will work on any specific need we have is outstanding. The weekly summaries provide talking points and things for us to work on at home. Erin and Meghan and their team of therapists know how to connect with the kids and make it fun along the way!"—Emily C.

"Our son has participated in FRIENDS Groups for over a year now and we have been very pleased with the results. Not only do Erin and Meghan provide a safe, nurturing environment for the children to work on their social pragmatics, but we have seen improvements in our son's social interactions as well as his willingness to speak in front of and share ideas with his peers."—Liz D.

We Help Children Communicate

Our experienced, licensed therapists provide comprehensive services for Speech-Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy.



Erin Anderson
& Associates
Pediatric Therapists

Visit us online:

erinandersonassociates.com
and pediatricsspeechchicago.com



Meghan Murphy & Associates
Pediatric Speech + Language Therapy

Call **773.935.7355**

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FRIENDS
Groups
Helps Kids
THINK SOCIALLY!

and **Interact**
More Positively
with Others...

Real-world social skills
in a safe and fun
environment.

**Groups available for preschool through high school*



Learn...
Think...
Do...
Social

Kids Learn By Doing.

They become best at the things they practice most.

Without guidance, kids may miss opportunities to learn and develop the nuanced social and emotional skills necessary to create and maintain relationships. Or worse, they may practice—and learn—unhelpful reactive patterns of social interaction. Kids best learn to process social emotions and language in the moment. Our licensed therapists provide guidance in structured and unstructured settings that help children learn, think, and do social interaction.

FRIENDS Groups is that safe, nurturing place where kids practice and learn to think socially. Well beyond rote “social skills,” they learn how to process social information plus why social interactions and dynamics play out as they do.

Children carry their experiences from **FRIENDS Groups** into the rest of their social world. Groups are co-led by both Speech-Language and Occupational therapists. Individual conferences with parents are scheduled and at-home activities are included to reinforce group sessions. We also collaborate with schools and other professionals.



Why FRIENDS Groups Work...

We have over 10 years of experience providing powerful and instructive group sessions for children. We designed **FRIENDS Groups** to make the best use of the most highly effective social-emotional development strategies and tools. We incorporate strategies from the “Whole-Brain Child” to help kids move from reactivity to resilience. We use social thinking concepts from Michelle Garcia Winner to emphasize the “why” and “how” of social information processing.

FRIENDS Groups is especially helpful for kids who:

- ⊃ *Avoid playdates or social situations*
- ⊃ *Express inflexibility to other’s ideas*
- ⊃ *Experience difficulty participating in groups*
- ⊃ *Exhibit aggressive, shy, or awkward social behaviors*
- ⊃ *Have trouble conversing with peers*

FRIENDS Groups help kids learn:

- ⊃ *To process emotions and increase self-awareness*
- ⊃ *To read & use non-verbal cues*
- ⊃ *Gross motor skills & motor planning in our sensory gym*
- ⊃ *Conversation and social interaction skills*
- ⊃ *Problem-solving and negotiation skills*



Preschool through High School Groups:

- ⊃ *Younger children focus on cooperative play, social language skills, turn-taking, and problem-solving.*
- ⊃ *Older kids work on the nuances of non-verbal cues, perspective-taking, flexible thinking, and decision-making.*
- ⊃ *Our Tween and Teen Groups are designed to help older kids gain greater confidence in their communication and friendship skills. We incorporate current challenges from home and from school.*



Fun with Food

We developed this program to help children build a positive relationship with food. It’s a fun, playful, non-stressful way to expand your child’s food repertoire and to develop oral-motor skills for safe eating and swallowing. A feeding therapist works with your child in an individual or small group setting.

Keyboarding

Keyboarding helps students with fine motor and visual processing difficulties. They develop proper typing techniques without concern for typing speed. Our multi-sensory program helps kids develop a motor map of the keyboard.

Articulation

Articulation Group promotes and supports articulation skills. It’s our most affordable way to build speech and language skills.

Call 773. 935.7355 for more information. FRIENDS Groups schedule online at pediatricspeechchicago.com