

Eligibility Considerations for Teens to join Connect with PEERS

For Participants

A participant suitable to join a Connect with PEERS group

- Willing to participate and be part of the group (motivated to make friends)
- Aged 13-18 years of age
- Verbal (does not have severe speech or articulation issues)
- High-functioning (mild intellectual delay acceptable) and is able to read
- Does not engage in problem behaviour (i.e., no behaviours that are highly disruptive)
- Able to function independently in a group setting (does not require 1:1 support)
- Demonstrates skill deficits with social behaviours

A participant not suitable to join a Connect with PEERS group

- Not motivated to make friends
- Engages in significant behavioural problems (e.g., violent, aggressive towards others, stealing, argumentative, non-compliance) that may warrant an individualized behaviour support plan or crisis intervention/safety plan
- Requires 1:1 support
- Severe mental illness (i.e., schizophrenia, bi-polar)
- Physical or medical condition that prevents participation in activities
- Participants must not have taken the program in the past
- Limited availability to schedule get-togethers with others (e.g., free only 1 day a week)

For Social Coaches

An individual suitable to be a Social Coach

- Able to attend weekly sessions for 1.5 hours
- Able to assist and debrief weekly homework assignments with the participating teen
- Able to participate in discussions that are on topic for a long period of time
- Demonstrates good social skills and is able to teach or model appropriate social skills to the participating teen
- Sees the participating teen on a regular basis (at least 3-4 times throughout the week)

An individual not suitable to be a Social Coach

- A partner to the participating teen
- An employer or co-worker of the participating teen
- Finds it difficult to focus for long periods of time
- Finds it difficult to stay on topic
- Not interested in social skills
- Sees the participating teen once a week or just over the weekend