

SOCIAL CLIMBERS

Children and adolescents (6-17 years) with a goal of building social skills are invited to join the Social Climbers summer program through the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Social Climbers is designed for children who:

- Have strong skills in spoken communication (i.e., speak in multiple sentences)
- Are able to attend to and participate in group activities for 90 minutes
- Understand a variety of language concepts (i.e., follow multi-step directions, answer questions)
- Are able to engage in instruction and discussion about social communication concepts
- Have primary challenges related to friendships and social interaction
- Wish to attend and participate and will maintain consistent attendance

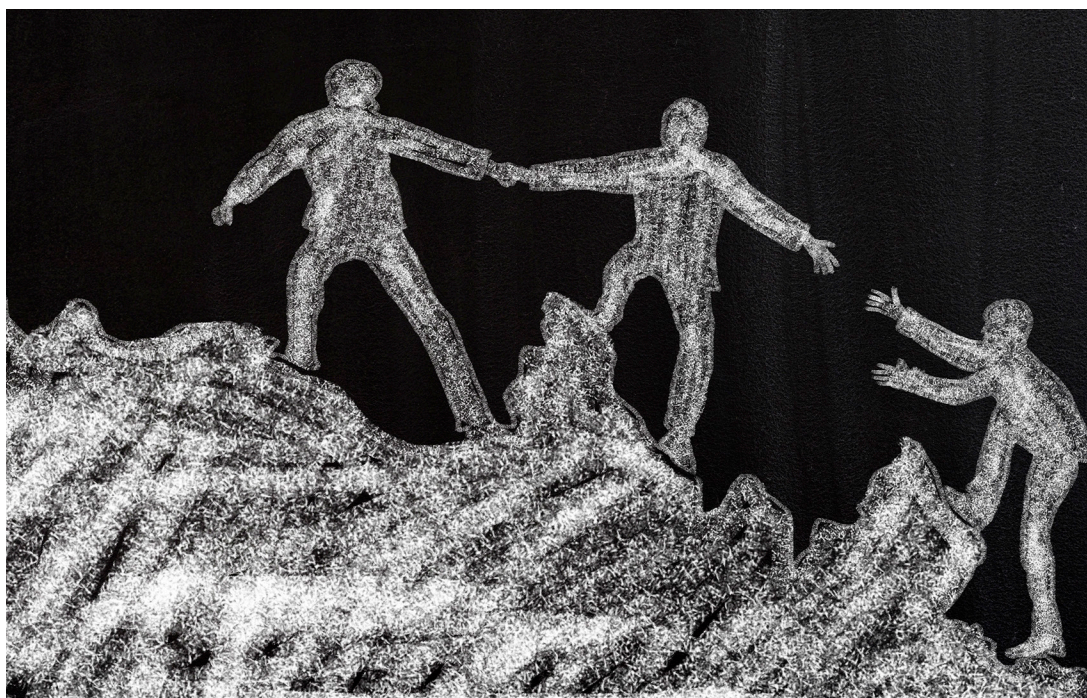
Using concepts from the Social Thinking® and PEERS® curricula, participants will be grouped by age and current social communication skill level. Spots are limited, and participants will be chosen based on fit with other group members. Groups will be formed loosely along the following age guidelines: 6-9 years, 10-13 years, and 14-17 years. Parent participation may be required dependent on the age range and curriculum of the group.

Group members will work with a graduate student clinician under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. Skill-building will include thinking about others' thoughts and feelings, having back-and-forth conversations, problem solving in social scenarios, critical thinking, cooperative work and play, emotional regulation, friendships and friendship skills.

Groups will meet Monday and Wednesday afternoons in June and July. Specific start and end dates will be determined closer to summer months.

Program modality will be determined closer to the start date based upon public health and university policies.

Fees are assessed at the low group therapy rate of \$30 per session; insurance is accepted, and a sliding fee scale is available for families who qualify.



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