



## **Social Skills Groups for Teens with Asperger's Syndrome (and related diagnoses)**

*offered by Children at Risk*

The Typical Teens social groups have been running since 2003, and focus on experiential learning of social skills in a fun and sociable teen environment. The groups provide community-based social skills training for teens with Asperger's and related diagnoses (HFA, PDD, NVLD). The strength of the TT model is the inclusion of trained peer mentors, supported by the arms-length facilitation of the adult group leaders, creating an authentic "real world" teen social situation that includes full support for the learning of new skills and the generalization and consolidation of previously acquired social knowledge. Follow-up data (presented at the Geneva Symposium 2008) shows group participants made positive gains in their social skills (research poster recognized for contribution to ASD field – see more details, including the full text of the poster, at <http://autismandtheartofcommunication.com/typicalteenswhatsnew1.html> )

This winter, we will be offering two groups, one situated centrally and one in the west end. Each group will run for 8 weekly sessions. Here are the details:

1. Central Typical Teens Group (based at CAR main office, 235 Donald St) will run a Part 1\* group for students in grades 7-9, Thursday nights from Jan 19<sup>th</sup> to Mar 8<sup>th</sup> (Interviews will be Thursday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> )
2. West End Typical Teens Group (based at Stittsville United Church, 6255 Fernbank Rd) will run a Part 1\* group for students in grades 9-11, Monday nights from Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> to Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> (interviews will be Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> )

*\*Part 1 groups are for teens who have not previously attended a Typical Teens social group.*

More information about the structure, content and philosophy of the Typical Teens groups can be found online at [www.autismandtheartofcommunication.com](http://www.autismandtheartofcommunication.com) . You can also call (613-741-8255) or e-mail ([car@childrenatrisk.ca](mailto:car@childrenatrisk.ca) ) the Children at Risk office.

For application forms (for both AS teens and teens who are interested in volunteering as peer mentors) please e-mail Heather Pierscianowski at [tadp@sympatico.ca](mailto:tadp@sympatico.ca) .