

# The Friends Summer Program 2020

**The Friends Summer Program** is a therapeutic group program designed to address the developing needs of children with Asperger's Disorder/High Functioning Autism Spectrum from kindergarten through middle school and their parents. Many of these children initially presented with ADHD, Anxiety, and Depression.



## Thriving in the Social World

Our focus is the relational world of kids on the Spectrum by helping them learn how to connect with peers, parents, and teachers and experience skills that are crucial for their ability to thrive in the social world.

## Putting Words into Action

Communication activities, group art projects, stories, and games are utilized as a way of exploring, practicing, and understanding feelings and behavior. Key to this is:

- Understanding and integrating perspective taking into the children's social behavior
- Learning to recognize how they feel.
- Understanding how they show their feelings
- Exploring how others interpret their feelings
- How they interpret the feelings of others - e.g. the social circle and empathy

## Groups

### The Young Child Group

(K—2nd Grade)

Mondays, June 8 — June 29, 2020

4:30 - 6:00 pm

The Young Child Group will engage in Water Play and learn about cooperation and friendship with the book *Swimmy!* The group will make a group mural for the story.



### The School Age Group

(3rd—5th Grade)

Tuesdays, June 9 — June 30, 2020

4:00 - 5:30 pm

The School Age Group will make a Lemonade Stand! The children will work towards understanding the importance of peer support, cooperation, and patience.

They will work together as they experiment with their own recipes, figure out the costs, payments, advertising, and host their family and friends at their handcrafted lemonade stand!



### The Middle School Group

(6th—8th Grade)

Tuesdays, June 9 — June 30, 2020

6:15 - 7:45 pm

The Middle School Group will make an original comic strip about friends. As the children collaborate on this project, they will have an opportunity to listen to each other's ideas, decide on the name and storyline for the strip, divide the tasks according to their skills and interests, and work together to create the finished product.



**Cost:** The groups are \$1000 per session for the child and parent(s).

To sign up for a the Friends Summer Program, visit

<https://www.drleventhalbelfer.com/summer-program.html>

Download & complete the [Friends Summer Program Application](#).

If you are a new client, please also fill out the [Children's Intake Form](#).

For questions, contact Dr. Laurie Leventhal-Belfer

at [dr.laurielb@gmail.com](mailto:dr.laurielb@gmail.com) or (650) 322-4431.