An evidence-based social skills program designed to help teens with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) make and keep friends

**WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?**
- Teens with ASD between the ages of 13-18 with friendship difficulties
- Must be in middle school or high school
- Average verbal/language ability
- Teens must be interested in joining and participating in PEERS
- A parent/caregiver must be willing to participate in the program

**WHEN AND WHERE?**
- Duration: 16 consecutive weeks (spring break to be determined)
- Day/Time: Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Anticipated Start Time: February 2021
- Location: **VIRTUAL** via Zoom (due to COVID-19 guidelines)
WHAT WILL THE TEENS LEARN?

- Appropriate conversational skills
- Entering and exiting peer conversations
- Finding common interests with peers
- Choosing appropriate friends
- Appropriate use of humour
- Good sportsmanship skills
- Handling teasing and disagreements
- How to have a get-together
- And much more!

COSTS

- The program fee is $1800 for the 16-week program
- Families are encouraged to contact the Autism Funding Unit (AFU) to determine eligibility for payment
- A portion of the fee may be covered by your extended health care plan, if applicable

PROGRAM LEADERS

- At the UBC PEERS Clinic, we are pleased that all of our group leaders are Certified PEERS Providers and were certified at The University of Los Angeles, California where the PEERS Program was developed. All leaders have Masters and/or PhD Degrees in Psychology or related areas
- At UBC PEERS, our focus is to deliver the 16-week program as it was developed in keeping with the evidence-base of the program

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Please email Dr. Rashmeen Nirmal, UBC PEERS Clinic Founder and Director at dr.rashmeen.nirmal@gmail.com to schedule a 15-minute telephone screening interview
- Then, an intake interview via Zoom will be scheduled with you and your teen to determine if the program is a good fit
- **Space is limited. We look forward to hearing from you!**