

# Rollercoaster Kids Therapy Groups

## General information about Rollercoaster Kids' Group Programs:

- We establish individualized goals for each child in our program.
- Groups are led by an occupational therapist and a speech-language pathologist.
- Group enrollment is limited to ensure a low child-therapist ratio.
- Appropriate for a variety of diagnoses
- Our Rollercoaster Kids programs are appropriate for children who are independent in toileting skills.

## Programs Include:

### Friendship Groups (Saturdays)

- Age range from 1 years to 3 years
- Small groups focus on social language and sensory integration
- Each group is 90 minutes
- Groups meet twice monthly on **Saturdays**
- Currently have 9 groups meeting

### Koala Club (weekdays)

- Preschool social-language therapy groups
- Age ranges from 3 years to 5 years
- Groups meet for 90 minutes; 1-2 times per week on **weekdays**
- For children not appropriate for a PPCD program or to supplement a PPCD program

### Summer Camp (weekdays)

- Therapeutic summer day camp lead by Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and/or Special Educators
- Age ranges from 3 years to 16 years
- Incorporates sensory integration, visual strategies, positive behavioral supports, and lots of fun!
- 2-week sessions, from 9am to 1pm, Tuesday-Friday
- Contact us for more information

*"Social interaction skills are critical to successful social, emotional, and cognitive development. Effective social skills allow us to elicit positive reactions and evaluations from peers as we perform socially approved behaviors." (Ladd and Mize, 1993)*

**For additional information or to make a referral, please contact:**

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# Rollercoaster Kids!

Rollercoaster Kids serves children 3 through age 16 providing speech therapy, occupational therapy and social skills training.

## Individual speech and occupational therapy services include:

- Speech therapy for a full spectrum of speech, language and communication disorders
- Feeding therapy for children with difficulties sucking, swallowing, chewing or tolerating foods
- Occupational therapy for difficulties with fine and gross motor skills, sensory processing and self care skills/activities of daily living

## Friendship Groups are designed to help children learn to relate, communicate and think. *(Stanley Greenspan)*

Groups are formed for children ages 3 to 16 who have difficulties with self-regulation, sensory-regulation, over- or under-activity, attention, communication and relating to others. Additionally, participants may be socially disconnected, physically awkward, fixated on specific objects or interests, or have unusual speech or communication patterns. Addressing and improving skills in these areas allows children to interact more successfully with family and friends at home, school and in the community. No specific diagnosis is required, but some of the common ones we see include: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Communication Disorders and Sensory Processing/Integration Disorders (SPD). Information on these disorders is provided below.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** includes a wide range of disorders from mild to severe. Autism is characterized by a number of language delays or other similar communication problems, poor social skills, and rigid or otherwise unusual behavioral patterns. No longer considered a rare disorder, a child is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder every 20 minutes and it affects 1 in every 110 children.

Some signs and symptoms of ASD may include: development and then loss of language or social skills, fixation on single objects or topics, repetitive body movements such as hand flapping, spinning or rocking, difficulty tolerating change, over- or under-sensitivity to textures, lights or sounds, hyper- or hypo-activity, inability to interact with peers as expected, and/or difficulty making eye contact with others.

**Communication Disorders** are present in children who have deficits in their ability to exchange information with others. These disorders include speech and language delays characterized by slow or incomprehensible speech, pronounced difficulties in syntax (the order of words in a sentence) and articulation (the manner in which sounds are formed), as well as language disorders which are characterized by a child's decreased ability to understand and/or use words in context, both verbally and nonverbally. Children with communication disorders can be capable of high academic success if they learn the social, language and learning patterns needed in a classroom setting.

Some signs and symptoms of a communication disorder may include: difficulty following directions, attending to a conversation, pronouncing words, perceiving what was said, expressing oneself coherently, understanding questions or making oneself understood.

**Sensory Processing/Integration Disorder (SPD)** is a condition that exists when sensory signals *don't* get organized into appropriate responses. Because any interaction with our environment and other people requires us to take in, process and respond to sensory input, a disruption in the ability to process sensory signals may affect physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive development. SPD may be present along a continuum in which several or only one type of sensory processing is affected.

Some signs and symptoms of SPD may include: Hyper- or hypo-sensitivity to touch, movement, sound, smells, or oral or visual input, poor tactile perception and discrimination, poor muscle tone and/or coordination, sensory seeking behaviors (stomps, bumps, jumps), difficulty grading movement (uses too much or too little force, distance, speed), social, emotional, play and self-regulation dysfunction, walking on tiptoes, easily overwhelmed when over-stimulated, and/or auditory processing disorders.

Does your child show any of the above symptoms? **The Warren Center and Rollercoaster Kids** can help! Services include social skills (friendship) groups, summer day camp and individual speech and occupational therapies. A child may be referred to **Rollercoaster Kids** by anyone who suspects a child has differences in these areas. Physician prescription is required for services. Community grants allow for a limited number of sliding scale fee adjustments for those with demonstrated financial need.

Rollercoaster Kids is a program of **the warren center**, for children with developmental differences

Send us an email: [RCK@thewarrencenter.org](mailto:RCK@thewarrencenter.org)

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