



SUMMER FRIENDS™

Summer Friends is a 5-week summer camp for teens on the Autism Spectrum. With a focus on social skill development, the program also incorporates independent living skills and community engagement through various participant-driven activities. This year, Summer Friends will take place in Stonington, CT on a 30-acre farm where we will be following the guidelines set forth by the OEC for social distancing and cleaning. Please note that participants should be able to wear a mask when necessary.

Dates: July 5th - August 6th (Mon to Fri 2:30-5:30 p.m.)

Location: Niantic, CT

The FRIENDS program takes an organic approach to social skills, blending elements of Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking, PEERS curriculum, and Social Training by Dr. Jed Baker through both direct instruction and peer-to-peer facilitation. The programming is continuously evolving with help from a school psychologist, speech and language pathologist, and our Transition Academy Director. Our mentors are trained to seize authentic opportunities to provide support and coaching through incidental teaching that focuses on the improvement of topics such as conversation skills, perspective taking, problem solving, reading social cues, and developing/maintaining friendships.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- 1) **Self Awareness** (e.g. understanding effect of behavior on others, understanding and controlling emotions)
- 2) **Relationships** (e.g. recognizing and identifying different kinds of relationships and ways of interacting in different contexts, relationship boundaries)
- 3) **Communication** (e.g. understand body language, using social media safely and appropriately)

ELIGIBILITY

- Those identified with Asperger's, HFA, NLD, PDD- NOS, social communication disorders
- Low average-high intelligence
- Emotional, behavioral, and psychological stability
- Grades 6-12
- Able to socially distance
- Must be able to wear a mask (when needed)

Go to www.lhcampus.com/summerfriends for more information, or contact Catherine Chow at cchow@lvecenter.com or (860) 445-7626 x 111