



2013-2014

Location Preference:

Simply Social Kids @ One Industrial Way, Tyngsboro

Simply Social Kids @ LifeLinks 285 Mill Road, Chelmsford

Group Preference:

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Day/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Groups:** Simply Social Kids offers social skills groups in an accepting, welcoming, environment where kids make social connections and form lasting friendships. Simply Social Kids programs are successful in teaching participants age 5-adult skills that are easily generalized into other environments. The social skills programs infuse a combination of Social Thinking lessons, Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS), and in-the-moment social coaching delivered in an unstructured, recess-like environment. Children are taught strategies to develop optimism and resilience while managing anxiety. Young adults are taught how to manage their independence.

**Participation Requirements:** In order to participate in programs, participants must:

- **Not require one-on-one adult attention for safety or participation in a group of 8-10 participants**
- **Not have a current history of physical aggression toward others or having to be restrained for aggressive or bolting behaviors**
- **Be fluent in their use of language and refrain from using profanity**
- **Be interested in socializing with others**
- **Be able to independently take care of restroom needs**

*Participation requirements are for the safety of the children. Simply Social Kids staff are not trained to address issues of children who are physically aggressive to others. Contact us if you're uncertain about the participation requirements and we'll discuss your situation*

**Drop Off & Pick Up:** Parents are asked to stay in the parent waiting area for the first session as we become acquainted with your child. Parents may drop off for subsequent sessions but should stay within 15 minutes of the center. To hear a summary of the group, plan to pick up 10 minutes early to hear the facilitator overview. If you need a more in-depth conversation, a future appointment may be needed since our groups often run subsequently.

**Attendance, Closings, Missed Sessions:** Our groups run monthly through the school year and we have a different schedule for the summer. Simply Social Kids usually closes if Tyngsboro and/or Chelmsford close due to weather. We will verify through e-mail and on Facebook. We may also close if a social coach is unable to facilitate due to illness or emergency. If your child misses group due to their illness or other commitment, **we are unable to provide a refund for a missed group.** Every effort will be made to provide a substitute class. We appreciate notification of an absence prior to group start. We also request 2 weeks notification should you decide to discontinue group for your child.

**Group Formation:** Groups are formed based on age and friendship potential. As we get to know your child, we may ask you to switch the day/time if we feel the friendship possibility may have a higher potential in another group.

**Payment Policy:** \$50 Registration fee required to confirm registration. First monthly payment is due on or before the first day of your child's group. All future monthly payments are due on the first session of the month. Group commitment is month-to-month and we request 2 week written notice or e-mail indicating that your child will no longer attend group.

Registration process includes a phone interview with Director, Nadine Briggs:

Nadine Briggs

978-764-2758

[nbriggs@simplysocialkids.com](mailto:nbriggs@simplysocialkids.com)

Mail completed registration form and \$50 non-refundable registration fee:

Nadine Briggs, Director

Simply Social Kids

One Industrial Way, Unit 4

Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Registration Information

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Child DOB \_\_\_\_\_ M or F

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Siblings (name/age) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #1 Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Parent #1 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #2 Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Parent #2 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #1 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #2 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Disability Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) School \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child receive special education services (IEP/504)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

How did you learn about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions to ensure the safety of your child (any answers of yes or sometimes must be discussed with program facilitator)

My child has shown aggression toward others                      yes      no      sometimes

My child requires 1:1 supervision                                      yes      no      sometimes

My child has food-related allergies or special diet              yes      no  
specify \_\_\_\_\_

My child has a strong understanding of personal boundaries    yes      no      sometimes

My child has medical issues that may affect his/her safety    yes      no  
(such as diabetes, seizure disorder, etc.)      specify \_\_\_\_\_

What social issues would you like addressed? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child getting social skills support in school? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I understand and agree to participation requirements, drop off & pick up, attendance, closings, missed sessions, group formation and payment polices. In case of injury, I do hereby waive all claims or legal actions, financial, or otherwise against Nadine Briggs or any contractor, employees or volunteers connected with the program. In absence of a signature, registration and participation in the program shall constitute acceptance of the conditions set forth in the release. I understand that refunds will not be given for missed classes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature



### Photo Use Authorization

Yes, I **grant** permission for Simply Social Kids to photograph \_\_\_\_\_ to be published on social media (ex. Facebook) and other marketing vehicles such as brochures, postcards and web sites.

No, I **DO NOT** grant permission for Simply Social Kids to photograph \_\_\_\_\_ to be published on social media (ex. Facebook) and other marketing vehicles such as brochures, postcards and web sites.

***Photo authorization is completely optional***

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Schedule School Year 2013-2014 for Simply Social Kids

Cost is per 4 week month unless otherwise noted

Day	Groups		Cost	Location	Program/Dates
Mon	*NEW* Dramatically YOURS Social Skills Drama Group 4:30 – 6:00 Ages 7-11 6:15 – 7:45 Ages 12-15	Theater with a Twist	\$199	Simply Social Kids One Industrial Way, Unit 4 Tyngsboro, MA 01879	6 weeks Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 21
Tues	4:15 – 5:15 Ages 8-11 5:30 - 6:30 Ages 8-11 Girls Only 6:45 – 7:45 Boys Ages 12-16	Nadine Nadine Nadine	\$130 \$130 \$130	Simply Social Kids One Industrial Way, Unit 4 Tyngsboro, MA 01879	Weekly Social Group Beginning September 10, 2013 – June 10, 2014
Wed	4:15 – 5:15 Ages 8-11 5:30 – 6:30 Ages 8-11 6:45 – 7:45 Ages 18+	Ashley Ashley Ashley	\$130 \$130 \$130	Lifelinks, Inc. 285 Mill Road Chelmsford, MA 01824	Weekly Social Group Beginning September 11, 2013 – June 11, 2014
Thur	4:15 – 5:15 Ages 5-7 5:30 – 6:30 Ages 8-11 6:45 – 7:45 Girls Ages 12-16	Nadine Nadine Nadine	\$130 \$130	Simply Social Kids One Industrial Way, Unit 4 Tyngsboro, MA 01879	Weekly Social Group Beginning September 12, 2013 – June 12, 2014
Sibshop	10:00 – 11:30 Ages 8-11 For sibling who have brothers & sisters with special needs	Nadine	\$25 pp	Simply Social Kids One Industrial Way, Unit 4 Tyngsboro, MA 01879	October 17, 2013 Teen siblings are welcome to volunteer

September 9: Weekly groups begin in all locations

October 14: Closed Columbus Day

October 17: Closed with make-up class offered on October 19<sup>th</sup> – times noted below

November 11: Closed Veteran's Day

November 27, 28 & 29: Closed Thanksgiving

December 23-January 6: Closed Holiday Break

February 17 – 21: Closed Winter Break

April 21-25: Closed Spring Break

May 26: Closed Memorial Day

June 12: Last Day of Group

\$50 Registration fee required to confirm registration. First monthly payment is due on or before the first day of your child's group. All future monthly payments are due on the first session of the month.

Groups need a minimum of 4 participants

Oct 17 – no groups.

Make Ups on Oct. 19:

Ages 5-7: 12:30 – 1:30

Ages 8-11: 1:45 – 2:45

Ages 12-16 Girls: 3:00 – 4:00



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Which children benefit most from your programs?**

Simply Social Kids offers social skills programs for children with mild to moderate social challenges. Our programs are language-based, so children must have good receptive and expressive language skills and be able to participate. Our programs offer both guided and learning experiences as well as unstructured time to replicate the times of day that are hardest for kids, recess, lunch etc.

### **What approach(es) do you use?**

We draw from several different approaches including Collaborative Problem Solving and Social Thinking methods ([www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com)) including Superflex characters for kids ages 11 and under. Director, Nadine Briggs, has dual graduate level certifications in coaching children and teens and coaching children and teens with ADHD. Methods from that education are used as needed to meet the needs of the children in group. We do not offer ABA and can refer families for that approach if needed.

### **What do I tell my child he or she is going to be doing?**

We recommend that you simply tell your child that they will be trying out a new after school activity and let us do the rest! Attending our open house and orientation will allow your child to visit and become comfortable in our space prior to participating in our programs. For teens, we suggest telling them that they are there to interact with other teens and learn relationship skills needed to be a successful adult.

### **How do I know how my child is doing?**

Facilitators debrief parents in the last 10 minutes of group. If you have specific questions about your child's progress, please feel free to e-mail or call. We also encourage you to send us specific information on anything your child might be struggling with socially so that we can help support him or her.

### **How long before I see improvement in my child's ability to socialize?**

Every child is different in terms of how long it will take before improvements are apparent. Some kids may need a little social tune-up and others may be in need of support for the long term. Generally, when children meet the guidelines for success, they improve and graduate from the program. It's difficult to predict how quickly a child will learn and generalize so we are unable to provide a definitive answer for any individual child.

### **Do all the children have a diagnosis? Will my child learn behaviors from other children?**

Our goal is to provide the most natural peer setting possible for kids to learn and practice social skills. Our program is similar to other after school activities, but offers an extra layer of social support. Many of our friends do not have a documented diagnosis, and are with us for guidance around friendship skills. However, we welcome children who have been identified as having profiles including ADHD, Asperger's, or Social Anxiety. If a child has more pronounced special needs and requires a lower coach-to-child ratio and a shorter group, we offer Simply Social Starters to support those needs. If a child requires more intensive support around behavior, we are happy to assist a family in locating the right resources for their child.

### **Are there children who do not benefit from your programs?**

Just like any program, we're not for everyone. We are social educators, not counselors, and cannot provide mental health services. We recommend a traditional therapeutic setting with licensed counselors for kids who struggle with significant aggression, bolting behaviors, oppositional defiant disorder or other related disorders that might cause a safety risk for your child.

### **My child pushed someone on the playground - is that what you mean by aggression?**

No. We completely understand that sometimes a child will have an isolated incident and mildly and briefly lash out in frustration. If you have any questions about this particular issue, please feel free to contact us to discuss your child's specific needs.



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### **How do I get my child enrolled in your programs?**

New friends are accepted into our programs each month if space is available. You're welcome to attend an open house or contact us for an appointment. Parents should plan on attending one of these sessions (with your child) before being enrolled in our programs or participating in activities in order to help you make a fully informed decision and for all of us to make sure it's a good fit for your child. Registration also requires a conversation with the program facilitator.

### **What is your professional background?**

**Nadine Briggs, Director of Simply Social Kids**, is an accomplished social educator. Nadine has expertise and certifications in bullying and cyberbullying prevention, dual graduate level certifications in Coaching Children and Teens and Coaching Children and Teens with ADHD, she is a certified Sibshop facilitator and has been trained by the Child Anxiety Network at Boston University. She uses collaborative problem solving to teach children conflict resolution and is able to communicate social coaching in a simplified manner to children of all abilities. All her programs have elements to teach learned optimism, resilience and improve self-esteem. Her life has been dedicated to teaching social awareness since 1996 when her daughter was born with Down syndrome. Parenting a child with challenges provided a fertile learning environment with which to teach children how to manage complex social situations. Nadine also created a daily living skills curriculum for middle school kids through adult and facilitates those classes in various locations. Nadine co-authored two books, both available now on Amazon.com, *How to Make & Keep Friends: Tips for Kids to Overcome 50 Common Social Challenges* and *How to Make & Keep Friends: Coaching Children for Social Success*.

### **Are your services covered by insurance?**

No, we cannot bill insurance companies for services as we are not therapists. We operate very much like tutors, only we don't teach math skills, we teach people skills. However, some families have been successful in having our services reimbursed through employer Flexible Spending Accounts and others have been able to receive grants through other organizations. We strive to keep our tuition costs (when broken down) in the range of an average insurance co-payment or tutoring fee.

### **How does tuition work?**

Tuition for our social educational programs is billed for a 4-week month. In the case of a missed class we unfortunately cannot offer a refund but we can offer make-up opportunities at other programs during the same month.