

Dear Parents,

Learning social skills is an important part of school. Social skills include sharing, initiating, making suggestions for play, and assisting and responding to peers. I would like to invite your child to participate in a social skills group, as a peer model, with other classmates in their grade. A peer model is a child whose speech and language skills are developing within normal range. Their role in the group is to assist the Speech-Language Pathologist in modeling appropriate skills and providing cues to the students in the groups who are learning how to communicate and interact with their peers. A peer model should have good behavior, social skills, and verbal skills; as well as should be able to follow adult directions.

In addition to assisting our target children in learning appropriate social language, play, and friendship skills, by serving as a peer model it is my hopes that your child will also benefit from the group. Personal growth, patience, compassion, and understanding are some of the areas your child will grow in by participating in activities with children with "special needs". By serving as a peer model, many children also gain a general awareness of people with various special needs, develop a need to help others, and increase their own self esteem. Children oftentimes grow by relating to people who are different.

The groups will be held during recess, lunch and classroom free time in 30 minute increments. Every child will have an opportunity to participate on a rotating basis. If you feel your child meets these qualifications, please sign below and return this letter to your child's teacher.

You may contact _____ at _____, ext ____ or by email at _____

Thank you,

I give my permission for (name) _____ to participate in the social group described above.

Signature _____

Date _____