



## Have Dreams FAQ's

### After-School SCILS Programs

**1. What is Have Dreams?**

Have Dreams is a 501(c)3 non-profit autism resource agency. We have been a leader in autism services since 1996, offering a variety of programs for individuals and their families.

**2. What makes Have Dreams unique?**

Our programs offer a lifetime of learning, serving the entire spectrum of autism. Each program is highly individualized to meet the needs of each person with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a leader in autism services we have trained over 7,000 professionals in the field. We are experts in ASD with highly trained staff who have a variety of educational backgrounds in this discipline. Our ongoing development of programs and services fills unmet needs in the autism community.

**3. Why should I enroll my child in a social skills program?**

One of the core deficits of autism is social skills development. Have Dreams understands this and continues to create programs that teach social skills because they are crucial for life--at home, school, work, and in the community.

**4. What are the goals of your programs?**

The goals of each program is to increase social skills, communication and independence within a safe, structured and supportive environment.

**5. What type of classes do you offer?**

Our weekly social skills classes are highly structured and developed based on the needs and interests of the group as well as each participant. Each class is structured around a high interest theme. Programs include music, art and games, tech club, career launch, teen and young adult club, and more!

**6. How long are the classes?**

They vary between 45 minutes to an hour and a half.

**7. What are the class sizes?**

Each class size depends on the needs of the participants – typically there is a 1:3 staff to student ratio.

**8. What is the criteria for the social skills programs?**

In order to focus on the challenging area of social skill development, careful consideration is given to the readiness for small group settings. Our curriculum is thoughtfully implemented to foster social skills, therefore each participant must demonstrate certain/basic readiness skills in areas of safety and self-care. There should be no elopement concerns and no severe aggression.

**9. What is the enrollment process?**

To enroll in a class, you need to go through our intake process. Contact our Program Director who will provide an intake form. Once received, we will set-up a one-time meeting with you and your child. During that time, we will determine if we have an appropriate social skills program fit at that time.



**10. What if I can only do a specific day of the week?**

Since we serve the entire autism spectrum, each day of the week is designed for a different age group and functioning level. If we don't have the right fit at the time you inquire, we will provide you with other resources.

**11. Why can't you tell me right away what class is available for my child?**

Our programs are formed based on the intakes we receive. We may not always have a program for a specific age group. If we don't currently have a class for a specific age group, we will put you on a waiting list until we can create a class. We need four participants to create a program.

**12. What if you don't have an appropriate social skills group for my child?**

Because we are a resource agency, we can provide you with other resources.

**13. How much does each class cost?**

Each class costs \$50/week for a 14 week session.

**14. Do you take insurance?**

Since we do not take insurance, our fundraising team actively solicits donations for a scholarship fund. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, the program director will provide you with more information.

**15. Is it rolling enrollment?**

A participant can enroll at any mutually agreed-upon time and we will pro-rate the cost. We typically run programs quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall). You must sign up for each new session.

**16. How will I know if I sign up for the correct program?**

Our expert staff will do an informal assessment during the intake meeting to determine which class will be the most socially appropriate.

**17. What is your teaching process?**

Our methodology is based off the TEACCH method called Structured Teaching. We meet each child at their development level (socially and academically). From there we will create individualized supports such as social stories, schedules, to do lists, coping strategy visuals, rule cards, break cards, etc.) We then implement these strategies with highly trained autism specialists.

**18. Are there trial classes?**

Within one month or four classes with our supports and team efforts, we will determine the child's readiness for participation in our social skills setting. If the child is not ready, we will provide the family with other resources.

**19. Do you allow observations?**

Due to confidentiality, we cannot have parent observations. We can take videos, etc. to showcase a certain strategy, etc.

**20. What does the parent communication look like?**

You will get a quick update after each class along with a parent sheet that describes the day's class. You may email the program director for an in person meeting at any time.