

## WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

This study aims to determine if a new program based on a social skills training program called PEERS®: Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills can improve social skills and the ability to make and maintain friendships for children with acquired brain injuries (ABI) or cerebral palsy (CP). It will also explore the child's and their caregiver's experience of the program.

For children with acquired brain injuries (ABI) or cerebral palsy (CP), making friends and maintaining social networks can be a major challenge. We have previously demonstrated that the PEERS® program helps adolescents with brain injuries to improve social knowledge and participation.

Will PEERS® also help primary school aged children make and keep friends?

That is our research question.

## BENEFITS

The program may enhance your child's social skills and help develop their skills to make and keep friends. As a result this may improve their long term psychological well being and quality of life.

You will be assisting us to gather information that may influence the way social skills training for youth with CP or ABI is delivered and provide better outcomes for their future.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED?

1. A screening interview to confirm eligibility and interest in the study.
2. Completing questionnaires at the beginning of the study, at the completion of the PEERS® program and 9 months later.
3. Therapist led weekly 90 minute sessions in a group of 8-10 children and a parent group is run at the same time in a different room.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Children who:

- are 9 to 12 years of age and attend mainstream primary school (grades 4-6).
- have a diagnosis of acquired brain injury (at least 6 months post ABI) or cerebral palsy
- have difficulty with social skills and making and maintaining friendships

## WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Children who:

- have severe visual or auditory impairment
- uncontrolled epilepsy
- are non-verbal

# IMPROVE SOCIAL SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE AND MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIPS

### Learn how to:

- **Make new friends**
- **Join conversations and games**
- **Host get-togethers**
- **Handle arguments and disagreements**
- **Be a good sport**
- **Handle rejection, teasing and bullying**
- **Use humour appropriately**



**If you would like to find out more or know someone who might be interested, please scan the QR code below or contact us:**

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