



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**S.T.A.R. Summer Camp Teaches Social Skills**



Independence, OH, July 13, 2018 –Effective social skills are crucial to emotional and cognitive development. Social skills deficiencies are one of the central features of those with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities. Making and fostering relationships is difficult and challenging for these students.

Adequate social skills are the unwritten curriculum that children with autism and other disabilities do not master. It has been found that when children do not have good friendship skills, the negative effects are long lasting and affect cognitive social and emotional development.

However, typically developing children acquire social skills such as: problem solving, conflict resolution, respecting the ideas of others, cooperation and team work without direct instruction. Positive social interactions promote a sense of well being, healthy relationships and a sense of belonging. **S.T.A.R.** Summer Camp’s goal is for children with disabilities to generalize social skills taught and practiced at camp into their daily life. The camp also provides educational support as identified through the camper’s Individual Education Plan.

**S.T.A.R** Summer Camp located next to the newly opened sensory friendly park in Independence, Ohio serves up to 240 campers and peers including 25 staff members, intervention specialists, movement specialists and interns allowing it to meet all extended school year requirements. With low teacher-camper ratios, typical peers are integrated and trained in disabilities to serve as peer models.

In addition to a focus on academic interview, a day at **S.T.A.R** Camp also includes arts and crafts, gym time, music, swimming and a whole lot of fun! Campers work on learning and social skills during these fun, creative sessions.

To donate or for future volunteer opportunities at S.T.A.R Summer Camp or with the ASGC, please contact [support@asgc.org](mailto:support@asgc.org).

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## **About ASGC**

The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, an affiliate of The Autism Society of America, the largest and oldest grassroots organization advocating on behalf of the 1.5 million Americans living with autism. Currently 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with some form of autism. These staggering numbers, mean that our services are needed more than ever. Your contributions go a long way to help all those whose lives are impacted by autism.