



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Help Group to Begin Using Skills® Curriculum with Students with Autism

The Help Group has committed to a 4-month pilot of Skills®, the Center for Autism and Related Disorders' online autism treatment curriculum, to help educate students affected by autism spectrum disorders.

LOS ANGELES (October 1, 2012) - Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), the world's largest provider of state-of-the-art, early intensive behavioral intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), announces The Help Group, considered the largest comprehensive non-profit organization serving the needs of individuals with autism spectrum and related disorders, will begin a 4-month pilot of Skills® curriculum for 40 children with ASD, along with the CARD eLearning™ training in ABA to help maximize their treatment services for students on the autism spectrum.

"The Help Group offers a very comprehensive curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of its students. We are pleased to pilot CARD's innovative Skills® program," said Pamela Clark, Director of The Help Group's Autism Schools.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in every 88 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an ASD, making it more prevalent than juvenile diabetes, pediatric cancer and childhood AIDS combined. CARD develops and utilizes technology to increase access to training for professionals who work with individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD.

"Skills offers the first and only ABA-based comprehensive social skills, social cognition, and executive functions curricula available. It's also one of the only online programs available that provides the ability to write behavior intervention plans for challenging behavior," says Skills co-creator Adel Najdowski, PhD, BCBA-D. "When creating Skills, we really tried to make it as comprehensive and self-explanatory as possible with the goal of achieving positive results with every child."

Unlike other curriculum design tools for the treatment of autism, Skills has an assessment with a corresponding curriculum that addresses every skill a child learns in typical development from infancy to adolescence across every area of human development. It is designed to give the educators of children with ASD access to the most comprehensive assessment of a child's development available. The results of the assessment are linked directly to a set of eight curricula that provide individualized lesson plans with step-by-step instructions for teaching children with ASD the skills they need. Skills is based on empirically supported treatment. While the system will automate lessons for users, it allows users the flexibility to tailor the program to the child's unique needs. Each of nearly 4,000 lesson activities also includes IEP goals, worksheets, visual aids, tracking forms and lesson videos.

Teachers, parents and practitioners can also use Skills as an effective management tool. The online program can evaluate treatment progress one child at a time. Skills provides charts and graphs that track treatment progress and the impact of various events (including other treatments and life events) on the child's progress. Plus, by allowing the user to look at progress across a number of children, the user can evaluate treatment integrity down to the individual teacher.

Skills features:

1. An approach based on over 40 years of research on the use of ABA-based treatment for ASD
2. 24/7 access from any computer anywhere in the world
3. An individualized assessment linked to a comprehensive set of curricula across eight developmental areas: (1) *Social*, (2) *Motor*, (3) *Language*, (4) *Adaptive*, (5) *Play*, (6) *Executive Functions*, (7) *Cognition* and (8) *Academic Skills*
4. Age of typical development for skills assessed and within lesson plans
5. Almost 4,000 lesson activities
6. Easily accessible lesson activities, teaching guides, and tracking forms
7. Lesson activities that are customizable to meet the child's needs
8. Printable, fun, and creative worksheets, tracking forms and visual aids
9. Clear, brief and visually appealing demonstration videos
10. Detailed treatment progress and clinical timeline chart
11. Ability to track and view the effect of challenging behaviors and alternative treatments on learning progress
12. Access to assessment, treatment and progress tracking all in one place
13. Lesson plans tailored to individualized educational plan (IEP) goals and benchmarks
14. Ability to write behavior intervention plans (BIP) for challenging behavior
15. Ability for teachers, professionals and parents to work together as a team in one online location
16. Multiple student viewing at one time (view all of a teacher's students in one account)
17. Ability to share access to students' accounts with other teachers and/or members of the treatment team
18. Ability to compare the effectiveness of teachers
19. Unlimited live assistance via Web chats

For more information about Skills, visit www.skillsforautism.com or call (818) 345-2345 extension 907.

About The Help Group

Founded in 1975, The Help Group is the largest, most innovative and comprehensive nonprofit of its kind in the United States serving children with special needs related to autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, ADHD, developmental delays, abuse and emotional problems. The Help Group's seven specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,400 students. The Help Group's broad range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With 900 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on seven campuses in the Los Angeles area. For more information about The Help Group, visit www.thehelpgroup.org.

About Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD):

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with ASD, with 23 treatment centers around the globe and a staff of nearly 1,000. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats individuals with ASD using the principles and procedures of ABA, which has been empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with ASD and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. For more information, visit www.centerforautism.com or call (855) 345-2273.

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