



Red Deer – Autism Alberta 2016 Report

2016 in Red Deer brought a number of positive changes and events. Our parents support group meetings are now broken into 2 distinct parts. The first half hour deals with any “business” and events. The last hour and a half is led by one of the parents, where discussion on relevant topics take place. More people have really stepped up to deliver a practical and great discussion session.

The following is a list of events that happened in Red Deer this year:

- Another successful delivery of 10 weeks of Social Solvers. ASA paid for all of the program, and the feedback from all parents involved was very positive.
- Red Deer had a very successful Bubbles for Autism Event. Hundreds of people showed up to this well-organized event.
- Parent social outings including a dinner as well as a family hockey night at a Red Deer Rebels hockey game (the team that hosted the 2016 Memorial Cup).
- Some parents organized a great swim event.
- Lastly, a fantastically attended movie night.

For 2017 we will have more of the same and the following:

Social Solvers Play Date Program

Organizing playdates can be stressful - especially when your child struggles with understanding social rules and norms. The Social Solvers Play Date Program is designed for children on the autism spectrum and their parents! By matching children based on their common interests and social challenges and providing parents with support and guidance when it comes to planning a successful playdate the Play Date Program provides a unique opportunity for parents to connect and for children to improve their social competence in a low stress environment.

How Does it Work?

- Children with similar interests will be matched through the online Social Skills and Interests Profile.
- Once enough Children with similar interests are identified parents will be contacted regarding a monthly event so that parents can be introduced to other interested parents.

Monthly Events

- A supervised activity for the children will be provided based on their shared interest.
- Parents will be provided information on planning a successful playdate, teaching specific social skills, and how to use play dates to practice these.
- Parents will have opportunity to ask questions and brainstorm solutions.
- Parents will exchange contact details and will be responsible for organizing future play dates between their children.
- Parents will be expected to supervise their own play dates after the event.

<http://www.socialsolvers.ca/#!play-date-program-1/gu89c>