

## Summer Social Skills Program:

Helping Improve Social-skills Through Evidence-based Practices



# Parent Testimonials:

\*Feedback from HI-STEP® parents consistently has been very positive\*

\*Social Skills gains have been reported by parents and school personnel\*

"Thank you so much for what you are doing for our children. Thank you for the difference you are making in so many lives, and especially ours."

"My son loved going to the program every day, making new friends & learning to play with others."

"We have seen him carryover what he has learned."

"Thanks again for the wonderful and enriching program. We look forward to next year."

"Our daughter received many benefits - decreased bossiness, better telephone & conversation skills..."

"I liked the daily report - it let me know immediately how the day went."

HI-STEP "...is one of the best things that's happened for [my child] in a long time."

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### **Social Skills Summer Program - Research Findings**



# HI-STEP® Summer Program (Helping Improve Social-skills Through Evidence-based Practices)

- Founded in 2000
- Summer Day Program consisting of Social-Emotional Learning & Problem-Solving Skills Training
- Small-group Training, Individualized Attention
- Recreational & Sports Activities, Creative Arts, Academic-related Activities, & Special Events
- 5 weeks, 5 days per week for 6 hours daily
- Experienced and Trained Staff
- Many Students Attend as part of their IEP's Extended School Year (ESY) services
- 3 Locations throughout New Jersey (Marlton, Pennington & Scotch Plains)

#### **Scientific Results \***

<sup>1</sup> Statistically significant improvement in social-problem solving, conversation skills, emotional regulation (e.g. anger management), friendship-making skills (e.g., playing game with peers, giving compliments) and requesting help.

- <sup>2</sup> Consistently very high parent satisfaction ratings.
  - 100% of parents strongly agreed or agreed their overall reaction to HI-STEP was very positive
  - 100% of parents strongly agreed or agreed the program counselors were competent and had a sincere interest in their children
  - 100% of parents strongly agreed or agreed the activities to build social skills (e.g., HI-STEP Social Problem Solving Curriculum, role plays, telephone practice) were helpful
  - 98.1% of parents strongly agreed or agreed they would send their child to HI-STEP again
  - 98.1% of parents strongly agreed or agreed the recreational activities and special events contributed to their children's enjoyment of the program
  - 98.1% of parents strongly agreed or agreed the program facilities appeared to be adequate and well
    maintained
  - 96.1% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that the behavioral methods used at the program were appropriate for their children
  - 94.2% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that the Daily Program Notes from the program director were informative and appreciated
  - Social Skills improved as rated by parents (statistically significant)
    - <sup>1</sup> According to pre- and post- HI-STEP® parent ratings on the POWER-Solving® Rating Scale, summer 2015
    - <sup>2</sup> Anderson, M.M. (2009). Formative Evaluation of a Summer Social Skills Program. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Rutgers University.

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