

GROWING SOCIAL Summer 2017 APPLICATION PACKET

Please complete the Application Packet, and return by **March 17th** for an *Early Registration discount of 10%*
Or by **May 12th** for the final deadline.

Placement letters will be emailed the **week of May 15th.*

A \$250.00 deposit (for each session requested) is due with the application packet to reserve a spot.
The deposit will be applied to camp sessions.

[See Page 3 for Program Descriptions and Rates, Page 4 for Application and Camp Dates](#)

Growing Social Summer Camps:

Growing Social summer camps offer students with social learning differences a unique opportunity to improve their social learning skills, and deepen their understanding of the social world, while engaging in functional, meaningful and motivating activities related to animals, gardening, nutrition and cooking (as well as other themes based on student interests). Areas of focus include: perspective taking, problem solving, flexibility, asking for help/initiation, executive functioning/organization, etc. This is a holistic, intensive, therapeutic program, with 4 separate, two-week camps (Monday-Thursday). Each camp day is 3 hours in length (with shorter day options available, depending on the age and needs of the group), equaling 24 direct service contact hours per 2-week camp. Group size is limited to four students or less. Most sessions take place at Larkin Valley Farm. The camps are led by either Stephanie Madrigal, or Amy Miller, both Speech and Language Pathologists who specialize in working with students with social learning differences.

Growing Social Camp Students:

The summer camp program is geared towards students ranging in age from 7-18 with social learning challenges including those with Social Communication Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, ADD and those without a formal diagnosis but who struggle socially. Opportunities for older students include participating in the Camp Counselor Camp, Community Outing Camp, or Social Vocational Camp. Please see summer camp descriptions on page 3 for more details.

Growing Social Camps may not be appropriate for all students at this time:

Unfortunately, we are unable to support students in the summer camp program who have significant behavior challenges (i.e., extreme defiance, physical aggression, bolting, etc.). Depending on the student, we may be able to meet their needs during the school year through shorter, more structured individualized programs.

Due to the fact that this teaching is rooted heavily in language, it is most appropriate for students who have strong verbal and thinking skills.

Specialized, Integrated Instruction:

Social lessons draw on a variety of social learning treatments and tools. Our treatment is based on cognitive behavioral therapy, which includes "Social Thinking"™ (developed by Michelle Winner, www.socialthinking.com). Teaching this highly recognized dynamic treatment model, along with other cutting edge approaches explored through meaningful group activities related to farming/gardening, nutrition and cooking, creates a unique, highly effective and motivating experience for students of all ages. Even students who have said they are not interested in growing food or the outdoors have truly enjoyed this experience!

Parent Component:

Each camp session includes a strong parent component. A 15 min. parent wrap-up will take place at the end of each session in order to provide the information and concepts covered each day, as well as ideas for carrying concepts over to the student's other environments. If possible, parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend these informative wrap-ups.

Creating a Community for Parents and Caregivers:

An integral part of the vision for Growing Social is to create an intentional community that honors, celebrates and connects families. We intend to provide parents the opportunity to interact with other families, relax, and take advantage of the fresh farm produce. Some community-focused events include a fall family harvest festival, parent appreciation harvest dinners, and Farm to Fork to Learn parent education series.

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Areas explored through Growing Social Summer Camps:

Social Focus

- Social Awareness and Interaction Skills
- Problem Solving
- Body/Brain Awareness
- Executive Functioning and Organization
- Independence/Self-Advocacy
- Strength and Empowerment Lessons

Farming/Gardening/Cooking Focus

- Basic plant science and related concepts
- Gardening skills including propagation and harvesting
- Awareness of the larger ecosystem
- Cooking and nutrition
- Knowledge and skills for a healthy lifestyle

Larkin Valley Farm:

Many of the sessions take place at Larkin Valley Farm. Larkin Valley Farm is a small farmstead with some animals (goats, chickens, dog and bees). If your child has any food allergies, is allergic to bee stings, or has a fear of dogs or other animals, please be sure to include that information when submitting your application.

Enrollment/Availability Chart:

Great care is taken in placing students in appropriate camp groups. Students are matched based on their ages, strengths and challenges including perspective taking, social language and auditory processing abilities.

Indicating your preferred camp sessions and times does not guarantee placement, as there needs to be a good match with other students that have similar availability. Please be sure to fill out the availability chart in full. The more availability listed on the application, the more likely we are to be able to place your child in a group. If an appropriate group is not available, your son or daughter will be placed on a waiting list. We will contact you immediately if a group placement should become available. If you are interested in an all-day camp experience (9:30-4:30), please check the "all day box", and we will look for two group placements (morning session and afternoon session). Please note, for students participating in an all-day camp, 12:30-1:30 would be an unstructured lunch time. If your child is participating in an all-day camp experience, please send them with a lunch.

***Placement letters will be emailed the week of May 15th.**

School Year Camps:

Fall camp applications will be available in mid July, on the website, www.growingsocial.org.

Scholarship Funding, early registration and sibling discount:

The intention of Growing Social is that all students are able to attend camp, regardless of funding. If funding is preventing your son/daughter from attending summer camp, please complete the scholarship application form and send it along with your application packet. A sliding scale option may also be available, please contact us for details.

*Families who have more than one son/daughter attending the Growing Social Summer Camp will receive a 15% discount off of the second application.

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Summer Camp Descriptions

Therapeutic Summer Camp Sessions:

4 separate, 2-week camps will be held throughout the course of the summer for three hours at a time, with morning and afternoon time slots. Students are welcome to attend both morning and afternoon sessions for an all-day camp experience (should we have an appropriate group placement for both the morning and afternoon session). Within small groups matched by age and skills, students will be taught a range of concepts related to social learning and executive functioning, and then given practice implementing these concepts and related skills through gardening, cooking, and related meaningful and motivating activities capitalizing on the student's strengths and interests. This dynamic approach has proven to be incredibly successful and highly rewarding for our campers and their families.

Camp Counselor Program:

The camp counselor summer camp program is intended for students age 15 and older, who are aware of and have experience working on their social learning differences, and are motivated to continue their own learning through acting as a camp counselor for a younger student group. Camp counselors participate in a camp session where they are a "camp counselor" and assist with a younger student group, as well as daily "camp counselor" sessions (typically two-three hours before or after the session when they are a camp counselor). Camp counselor students further their own learning related to areas such as perspective talking, problem solving, asking for help, flexibility, social-vocational skills as well as exploring and receiving feedback on their participation as a camp counselor. In our experience, we have found the camp counselor program is most successful for counselors who are motivated to participate, and have had some level of social learning themselves.

Farm and Community Outing Camp Sessions:

This camp is geared for middle and high school students and will provide them a mix of farm and community based activities in which to practice applying social learning concepts. Examples of possible community activities include bowling, Boardwalk, arcades, mall, going to the beach, eating at a restaurant, visiting other farms, and other activities. Every other day, the students will come to the farm to plan and organize as well as explore various lessons around problem solving and social interactions in preparation for the outings. On the following day, the students will meet at the designated location (parents will need to be able to drop their son or daughter off and pick up at this location) to hang out and practice the skills they are learning. Please note that limited additional funds will need to be provided for the outings.

Social Vocational Camp: (Available for students age 16 through young adult)

Participating in a social vocational camp at the farm, or in the community, gives teens and young adults the unique opportunity to participate in a camp that mimics a work experience, to address job related skills such as asking for help, problem solving, organization, as well as exploring the more sophisticated social underpinnings related to the work environment that can often be difficult for students with social learning differences. Please contact us for additional details and availability related to this camp at info@growingsocial.org.

Camp Session Rates

- \$1,350.00 1/2 day, 2-week summer camp session (24 therapeutic contact hours, materials fee and deposit included).
- \$1,215.00 *10% Early Registration Discount (By March 17th)*, (24 therapeutic contact hours, materials fee and deposit included).

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Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: _____ Grade: (as of Sept 2017) _____ Gender: _____

Please check if you have more than one child who you would like to attend summer camp

*Please include a \$250 deposit with application packet to hold a spot. Mail check to: Growing Social
35 Larkin Valley Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076

*Scholarship form included? _____ (yes) _____ (no). _____ I would like to help a student attend camp.

*Donation to the scholarship fund: _____ (indicate amount to be donated.)

Camp Sessions <small>*Please circle all availability</small>	Session 1 June 19 th - 29 th No Fridays	Session 2 July 3 rd - 13 th <small>*No meeting July 4th *Meet on Friday July 7th</small>	Session 3 July 17 th - 27 th No Fridays	Session 4 July 31 st - Aug. 10 th No Fridays
Times Available <small>*Please circle all availability or check <i>All Day</i>, if you would like two sessions per day</small>	____ All Day	____ All Day	____ All Day	____ All Day
*Please note: Camp Counselors attend full camp days in order to be a "camp counselor" and then a session for their own direct learning.	9:30-12:30 1:30-4:30	9:30-12:30 1:30-4:30	9:30-12:30 1:30-4:30	9:30-12:30 1:30-4:30

Any additional information you'd like for us to consider regarding scheduling?

Where did you hear about us?

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Camper Information

***If your child has previously participated in Growing Social Camps, and the status or needs of your child have not changed, only complete pages 4 and 8-12**

Date: _____ Grade (as of Sept 2017): _____

Client's Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Parent #1 Name: _____ Parent #2 Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

School Name and District/City: _____

Current Services: ___ IEP ___ 504 Plan ___ OT ___ Speech ___ Resource ___ 1:1 Aide ___ SDC Class

Other _____

Diagnostic Label: _____

Does your child have allergies or special diet? (Please be aware that there are bees on the farm)

What are your current concerns about your child's performance at school? (Use back of form for additional space)

What are your current concerns about your child's performance at home?

If I were to observe your child at school during lunch or recess, what would I observe? (If homeschooling, please describe how your child does in less structured settings around same aged peers).

If I were to ask his/her classmates to describe your child, what would they say?

Does your child have any behaviors that would likely greatly affect his/her successful participation in camp? (i.e. bolting, hitting, very weak attention, etc.). Please describe:

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Additional Information

Please check behaviors that describe your child. Please check all that apply.

Unmotivated _____ Impulsive _____ Rigid (may only see things one way) _____
 Verbally aggressive to peers or adults _____ (please describe _____)

Withdrawn (may hide or emotionally shut down when upset) _____ Externally distracted _____
 Aloof/internally distracted _____ Anxious _____ Oppositional _____ Physically aggressive _____

Please rate your child on a 1-5 scale (5= great performance)

Paying attention to others		Understanding personal space	
Asking questions about others		Participating in a group	
Making eye contact		Accurately identifying facial expressions	
Understanding the feelings of others		Accurately identifying body language	
Showing empathy		Greeting others	
Listening		Participating in a conversation	
Understanding what people mean by what they say		Initiating conversations with others	
Doing homework		Adding relevant comments to a conversation	
Turning in homework		Apologizing	
Keeping backpack organized		Asking for help	
Keeping school desk organized		Personal problem solving	
Taking responsibility for self		Compromising and/or negotiating	
Understanding consequences		Doing chores	

Please write a brief letter describing your son or daughter.

Including the information listed below will help to obtain a more complete picture of your child and help us find an appropriate group placement.

Please include:

- Your student's strengths and challenges related to functioning in the social world
- Describe his/her interactions with peers
- Describe his/her awareness of their challenges (e.g., Are they aware of how others perceive them, do they think that they are perceived as "different" from their peers?)
- How well does he/she understand that his/her actions and words affect others?
- How does he/she respond to every- day problems, such as changes in the schedule, peer conflicts, etc.?
- What are some of his/her strengths and interests? What motivates your student?

If you have them, please include:

- A copy of the latest IEP or school evaluations (if applicable)
- Any outside therapy reports (OT, PT, SLP)
- Any diagnostic reports or updates

Please also include:

- A recent picture of your child, and if convenient, a brief video clip such as on a flash drive or emailed to info@growingsocial.org

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Academic/Social Learning Checklist

Date: _____

This student: _____ is being considered for social learning services. It would be of great benefit to have you complete the information below regarding this student based on your own experience.

Your name/Relationship to student _____ Grade _____

***For Teacher's:** *Please return this form in a sealed envelope and return to the student's parent. (This is to ensure that the student does not read the form. We encourage families to read this form so they can see how their child's social learning differences impact them across the school day).*

Please check off how you feel this student does in your setting in the following areas:

Skill to explore	Comments	Above grade level	At grade level	Below grade level	Did Not Observe
Math					
Reading decoding					
Reading comprehension (inferring, deeper interpretation of characters)					
Written expression (teacher directed topics)					
Participation during large, class discussions					
Participation during small group activities					
Asking for help in class					
Making and keeping friends during less structured times					
Organizational skills while in class					
Organizational skills from home to school and back again					
Does this child stand out as unique in his interpersonal skills?					
Do you anticipate that this student will encounter more challenges in future school years?					
How would this student's peers describe him?					

Any additional comments (please use back if you need more space).

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Policies and Procedures

I agree to follow the fee schedule and policies for _____ as noted: **Please Print Student's Full Name**

I'm requesting my child participate in the following services (please check all that apply),

_____ Summer Camp (half day or full day, # of sessions requested _____)

_____ Camp Counselor Program (# of sessions requested _____)

_____ Farm and Community Outing Camp (# of sessions requested _____)

_____ Other (please explain) _____

Camp Session Rates

- \$1,350.00 *regular registration* (by May 12th)
1/2 day, 2-week summer camp session (24 therapeutic contact hours, materials fee and deposit included).
- \$1,215.00 *10% Early Registration Discount* (By March 17th).
1/2 day, 2-week summer camp session (24 therapeutic contact hours, materials fee and deposit included).

*** Please note Friday, July 7th meeting for Session 2, due to July 4th holiday**

Payment

- \$250 deposit is due for each camp session requested, with the completed application packet to reserve a placement for your child.
- **Payment is due in full upon notice of placement in a summer session(s).** Placement letters will be mailed the week of May 15th.
- **If a family has been notified by email of a group placement, but must drop out of the program prior to beginning, the \$250 deposit will be retained in order to account for time spent reviewing application materials and matching the student in an appropriate group based on their individual needs and availability.**
- Scholarships are awarded, as funds are available. Scholarship recipients will be notified with placement letters the week of May 15th.

Placement/Groups

- If there is no appropriate placement at the time of scheduling, your child will be placed on the waiting list and your deposit check will be returned.
- Parent "wrap-up" is intended to review the camp day. This time is an important opportunity to highlight concepts learned, share ideas for carryover at home, and for parents to give feedback and ask questions.
- Students are highly encouraged to attend all days of camp as lessons build on each other, and absences can disrupt the group cohesion. Families will not be reimbursed for missed days, and we are unable to make up this time.

Please remember to identify if your son or daughter has any food or other allergies, or has a fear of dogs or other animals. (Note: bees are often kept on the farm).

Please sign below and mail in completed application packet with a \$250 deposit to:

Growing Social
35 Larkin Valley Rd.
Watsonville, Ca 95076

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Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Permission Form

Name of Camper: _____

PERMISSION FOR COMMUNITY OUTINGS (To be checked if applying for Community Outing Camps):

(check one) ____ **I give** or ____ **I do not give** permission for my son or daughter
_____ to walk in the community and/or use public
transportation as needed during camp sessions with Growing Social (Amy Miller, Stephanie Madrigal or
other employee of Growing Social).

Please note any special considerations for community outings:

PERMISSION TO USE VIDEO OR PICTURED IMAGE & AUDIO for THERAPEUTIC AND OR MARKETING PURPOSES

I understand that the use of video, picture image and audio recording are an important component of therapy treatment. These recordings will be used for teaching purposes only and will not be used outside of the group without your written consent.

(check one) ____ **I give** or ____ **I do not give** my permission for "Growing Social" (Amy Miller, Stephanie Madrigal or other employee of "Growing Social") to use pictures of my child for therapeutic or training purposes (presentations, teacher trainings, etc.) as well as promotional materials (website, brochures, etc.).

(check) ____ I give my permission for "Growing Social" (Amy Miller, Stephanie Madrigal or other employee of "Growing Social") to use the video, picture or audio recording of my child for therapeutic purposes

Please initial that you understand that other teachers/professionals may, from time to time, observe your child's session for their own training purposes. All information is kept confidential.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____
(or student signature if 18 years or older)

Printed Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____

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Name of Camper: _____

Exchange of Information

Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home phone: _____

I give permission to Growing Social (Amy Miller, Stephanie Madrigal or other employee of Growing Social), to share information with the following people regarding the educational or medical treatment for my child. We collaborate closely with professionals on the team.

Professional's Name	Title	Telephone Number	Email Address

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____
(or student signature if 18 years or older):

Print Name: _____

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Name of Camper: _____

Waiver, Release and Assumption of Risk Agreement

(To be completed by the Participant’s parent/guardian, or, if the Participant is 18 years of age or older, by the Participant.)

I, the parent or legal guardian of _____, consent to allow my child to participate in Growing Social at Larkin Valley Farm or other sites, from the first day of camp _____ through 2017.

Release

I hereby waive and release any claims that my child or I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me or my child, against Association, its officers, directors, employees, agents, assigns and representatives and volunteers (collectively “Company”) for personal injury, including death, as well as all property damage or loss, arising out of my/my child’s participation in this program. Additionally, I agree to hold Company harmless from, and indemnify Company against, any such claims.

Assumption of Risk

On behalf of myself or my child, I assume the risks of and accept personal liability for any personal injuries or property damage that might occur as a result of participating in this program.

Behavioral Agreement

By participating in this program, my child is expected to follow the rules at Larkin Valley Farm and on field trips.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN GROWING SOCIAL AND MYSELF AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Student’s Name

Name of Adult Participant or Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature of Adult Participant or Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

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Name of Camper: _____

Camper Health History

Does your child have any health conditions requiring medication, treatment, special restriction or consideration while at camp? Please note that no medications will be administered by camp staff.

Please initial to indicate you are aware that no medications will be administered by camp staff or any employee of Growing Social.

Please provide a record of immunizations, including date of last tetanus shot:

Date of last tetanus shot: _____

Please list any allergies: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____
(or student signature if 18 years or older):

Print Name: _____

I grant Growing Social permission to seek emergency medical treatment if medically necessary for my child. (Please initial, mandatory for participation in camp sessions).

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____