We invite you to participate in a research study:

PEERS® Training is a 16-week evidence-based parent-assisted social skills intervention to teach teens, between the ages of 13-17 years, how to make and keep friends. After intake surveys and interviews are conducted (75-90 minutes) and eligibility is determined, social skills groups and parent/social coaching groups will take place once per week for a total of 90 minutes at the University of Maine, Orono. Participants and their parent/social coach will meet in two, separate but concurrently timed groups. Virtual videos recorded will be of the participant and their social skills group role-play partner (another participant) using a 360 camera (e.g.: Samsung Gear 3601) with 4K resolution to fully immerse both participants in the virtual experience. Only participants who have given consent to be in the study will be video-recorded. In addition, a four-question survey will be completed by both parents/social coaches and participants at the end of the study. There are 16 weekly sessions.

Teens will learn how to:

- Use appropriate conversational skills
- Use humor appropriately
- Use electronic communication
- Enter & exit conversations
- Be a good host during get-togethers
- Be a good sport
- Handle arguments and disagreements
- Change a bad reputation
- Handle rumors and gossip
- Handle rejection, teasing and bullying

For enrollment information, please contact (207) 581-2352 or email: maineautisminstitute@maine.edu