

2020-2021 Professional Development Series

2020-2021 MAIER PD Series offered at **no cost** to participants.

Registration required for each session to access materials and webinar or training module

Register online: <https://forms.gle/Bac8hQFaF8gZJiLz8>

April 2021

PEERS® Lab @ UMaine Virtual Bootcamp: Friendship Skills

Sarah Howorth, PhD, BCBA-D

Session Description

In this training module, Dr. Sarah Howorth presents the PEERS® Virtual Friendship Bootcamp. Participants are presented with targeted social skills through didactic instruction and role-play demonstrations. Opportunities are provided to practice the social skills independently and with behavioral rehearsal exercises. Dr. Howorth discusses several social skills topics including how to find a source of friends, the skills needed to have a conversation, how to start a conversation, and how to enter a group conversation. This social skills training module is recommended for families and professionals who support teens and young adults with autism.

Speaker Bio

Sarah Howorth is an assistant professor of special education and program coordinator for the special education graduate programs in the School of Learning and Teaching, within the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. Her research interests include social skills and social coaching of individuals with autism and use of emerging technology such as virtual reality and augmented reality to support behavioral, academic and skills instruction for individuals with disabilities. She also has expertise in the following areas: assistive technology, reading comprehension, positive behavior interventions and supports, and improving employment and transition outcomes for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities.

The Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research (MAIER) is a partnership between the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development and the Maine Department of Education. MAIER is dedicated to building statewide capacity to improve outcomes for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). UMaine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

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