



# Summer Camp Inclusion: A Model Program

FUNDED IN PART BY PRIVATE DONATIONS

*"I love taking my child to a place where I know he will be loved and treated like any other child."*

*~ Mother of a seven-year-old child with autism*



## Overview of Camp Model

### Setting

- Located on the UCSB Campus
- Approximately 200 typically developing children attend camp each week
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Monday - Friday
- Children are grouped according to age
- 10 - 15 children in each group

### Support Staff

- Bob Koegel, Ph.D. and Lynn Koegel, Ph.D.,
- Supervisors: Danny Openden, Ph.D. and Ty Vernon
- In – home parent education clinicians
- 1 : 1 Aides: graduate and undergraduate students trained in PRT intervention and social facilitation strategies

### Campers

- Approximately 50 children with autism
- Age range: 4 ½ – 13
- Each child attended camp for 2 weeks

### Activities

- Gymnastics, swimming, art, field games, music, ropes course, computers, board games, dance, and science



## Why Summer Camp is Important

- Provides on-going intervention in summer months
- Promotes acquisition of new skills
- Opportunities to:
  - Develop friendships between children with ASD and their typically developing peers
  - Increase social interactions with typically developing peers
  - Enhance communication skills
  - Learn appropriate social behaviors

## Main Objectives

1. Children with autism are included in all summer camp activities with modifications made where necessary

*We found that all children with autism were able to increase the amount of time spent participating in the activities*

2. Children with autism will have opportunities to interact with typically developing peers

*We found that all children with autism were able to increase the number of expressive interactions with typical peers*

3. Develop target goals to be implemented for the following school year

## Exciting Project:

Using adolescents with aspergers or high functioning autism (HFA) as support facilitators for summer camp inclusion program

## What Made Camp Possible:

- Tri-Counties Regional Center
- State of California DDS
- Private Donations



## What We Hope for in the Future:

Continued support of the project in order to provide the children with an inclusive program for the summer months

Increased number of children who are able to participate in summer camp

This program to be used as a model for successful inclusion across a variety of settings

Dissemination of the summer camp model through scholarly publication and presentation at professional conventions