



Dear families,

The Ernie Els Centre and Autism South Africa (ASA), in collaboration with The Johannesburg School for Autism, will be holding our first sibling support group of 2018 (STARS- Siblings That Are Really Special) on **Saturday, 3 March 2018**. This will be held in the Autism South Africa training room, ground floor, Children’s Memorial Institute building. **Parents are required to stay on the premises**, and are invited to meet with other parents and share experiences while their children are involved in the programme. Learners from the school are welcome to come along and will be looked after by teachers from the school while their siblings participate in the programme. We look forward to meeting and working with our learner’s siblings.

*Thus we will be hosting a parent group, sibling group, as well as an ASD specific group.*

**What are the goals for our STARS group?**

- ❖ The group will provide brothers and sisters of children with autism an opportunity:
  - to meet other siblings in a relaxed, recreational setting;
  - to discuss common joys and concerns with other siblings of children with autism;
  - to learn how others handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with autism;
  - and to learn more about the implications of their sibling’s special needs;
- ❖ All of this will be done in an interactive and activity-based manner

**Please take the following into consideration when completing the final response slip:**

1. This Stars group is **for siblings over 6 years of age** as younger children may have difficulties with the activities planned. Please note that children younger than 6 years of age will be required to stay with their caregiver throughout the group.
2. Please provide the age of each sibling as we need to allocate them to the appropriate age group and plan accordingly.
3. The groups will take place on Saturday 03 March 2018 from **08:30-11h45**. **Please arrive by 08h15** to allow for all for the groups to begin on time at 08:30.
4. If you arrive later than 09h00, we may not allow you to enter the groups, as this disrupts the flow of the sessions.

***Please return the reply slip by latest Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, but keep the information section above. Please note that if we do not receive your reply slip by Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup>, you will not be allowed to participate, as we plan based on the number of reply slips received.***

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, caregiver/ parent of \_\_\_\_\_ ; (aged \_\_\_\_\_ ) will be attending the sibling support group on 03 March 2018, with the following **siblings** of my child:

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 2. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 3. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |

Name of parent/caregivers: \_\_\_\_\_;

Contact number of parent/caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_

**REPLY SLIPS CAN BE SENT TO:**

The Ernie Els Centre for Autism, South Africa: [Aretha.kausele@elsforautism.org](mailto:Aretha.kausele@elsforautism.org)

Autism South Africa: [educator@autismsouthafrica.org](mailto:educator@autismsouthafrica.org)