



**Social Skill Builder**  
Quality Learning Tools

# InterAction

www.socialskillbuilder.com

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[Click here to try our  
Preschool Playtime  
Volume 1 Demo!](#)

## We'll Come to You!

Are you interested in an in-service presentation for your school, clinic or parents' group? Social Skill Builder speaks around the country to various state and national organizations. [Click here to contact us](#) about speaking on social skills, video modeling or autism! ■

## A Preschooler Shines by Using Social Skills Computer Games

New mom Noreen first noticed something different about her son at 18 months. Christopher seemed lost at his Gymboree™ class; he was just not behaving like the other kids.

At 3, Christopher was admitted to a special needs school based on low problem solving skills. Continued work with Christopher revealed problems understanding questions and difficulty following conversations. His family and therapist went to work on his main difficulty – socialization and the appropriate communication that goes along with it.

When Christopher was about to receive a gift, Noreen would whisper in his ear, "Put on your happy face." And when he was angry with her but didn't know how to express it, she'd coach, "now it's time for your mad face."

Christopher's therapist also recommended a new CD-ROM from Social Skill Builder – [Preschool Playtime](#). The software offers five levels of role-playing exercises where real-life children are presented in real-life situations – in the park, in a play group, at preschool and on an outing. Playing the game, Christopher is asked to identify correct behavior related to social interactions such as taking turns, sharing, apologizing, cooperating, maintaining personal space and listening.

"Greetings, and how to act when playing traditional games like Duck-Duck-Goose, do not come

*Continued on page 2*

## Did You Know?

Autism Speaks maintains an online family services resource guide. With more than 15,000 entries, this database allows families to find a wide range of local or regional services. Go to [www.autismspeaks.org/community/resources](http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/resources). Social Skill Builder is pleased to be featured in this guide. Find us by clicking on the state of Virginia and selecting Social Skills Groups. ■

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“(Autism Awareness Month) is a special time, but... the significant challenges posed by autism are ongoing.”  
– Suzanne Wright, cofounder, Autism Speaks

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## Preschooler Shines with New Social Skills

*Continued from page 1*

naturally to Christopher, but he doesn't like me to explain these things to him,” says Noreen. “Using Preschool Playtime, we're able to take advantage of the fact that he's a really visual child. When he watches a child in the program stop over at a friend's house to say 'hi,' or a group playing Ring-Around-The-Rosie, he's able to imitate the situation with other kids later on.”

Since starting therapy, Christopher has made incredible progress. “It's like night and day,” says Noreen. “Without the steps that we've taken, Christopher would be a different kid today. But as things stand, our family is really happy and looking forward to the future.” ■ (Excerpted from an article by Alexandra Levit.)

## Corporate Sponsors Rally to Raise Funds During Autism Awareness Month

Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism advocacy organization, partnered with a range of corporate sponsors to increase autism awareness and raise funds during Autism Awareness Month in April.

“We are very fortunate to have outstanding corporate partners whose commitment and contribution to this process are invaluable,” said Bob Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks.

“This month is a special time, but we mustn't forget that, for millions of families, the significant challenges posed by autism are ongoing,” added Suzanne Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks. For more information, visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org).

Participating companies included Barnes and Noble, TJ Maxx, Modell's Sporting Goods, Build-a-Bear Workshop, Chevrolet and Toys “R” Us – also the national sponsor of the Autism Speaks Walk Now for Autism program. The toy retailer also continues to offer [“10 Toys that Speak to Autism.”](#) Each toy is designed to promote the development of language, creativity and social skills. They are available in stores and online. ■

## Fun Shopping with a Purpose

With a fun twist on a classic snack food, puzzle piece-shaped pretzels are now available in grocery stores in the Northeast and online at [www.bachmanpretzels.com](http://www.bachmanpretzels.com). Bachman will donate five percent of the proceeds to Autism Speaks.

Or, how about some fish? Research suggests that watching fish can help reduce stress and anxiety, promote relaxation and enhance learning abilities for children with autism. Enter the biOrb, an upgrade of the classic fishbowl that keeps the round shape and adds a hidden filter, a water pump and a halogen bulb for added sparkle.

Dozens of the 8-gallon aquariums in trademark autism blue were donated to schools and treatment centers across the country to contribute to a healthy and soothing environment for children. Check them out at [www.biorbparts.com](http://www.biorbparts.com). ■

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Autism Speaks received \$15,000 from last year's sales of a special edition biOrb in trademark autism blue.

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## Show Your Teacher Appreciation with an SSB Gift Certificate!

Teacher Appreciation Day is May 6, but we are celebrating teachers the entire month of May! Show your teacher appreciation by giving a gift certificate from [socialskillbuilder.com](http://socialskillbuilder.com). With our great teaching programs, your special teacher is sure to find something to make their job more exciting, fun and successful. Guaranteed to hit a home run! ■

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