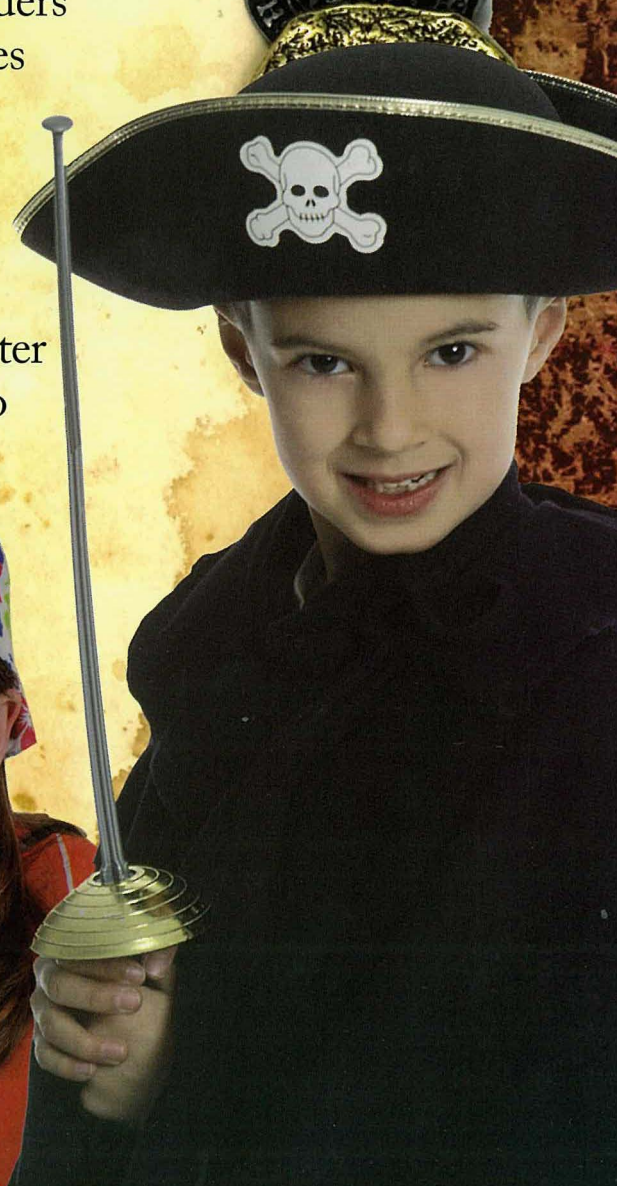




PIRATES

An Early-Years Group Program
for Developing Social Understanding
and Social Competence
for Children with
Autism Spectrum Disorders
and Related Challenges

Dr. Margaret Anne Carter
and Josie Santomauro



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WE APPRECIATE ...

The following kindergarten, preschool and school communities have participated in the *Pirates* pilot program. We appreciate their professional commitment to testing the program and their insightful feedback. We sincerely thank the children for their enthusiasm and engagement as they participated as learners in the *Pirates* program.

Mary Mackillop Catholic School, Brisbane, Queensland
Condy Park Community Kindergarten, Pialba, Queensland
The Range Community Kindergarten, Mapleton, Queensland
St. Laurence's Catholic School, Forbes, New South Wales
Mueller Christian College, Brisbane, Queensland
St. Brendan's Catholic School, Brisbane, Queensland
Jinibara State School, Jinibara, Queensland

WE DEDICATE ...

We have written the *Pirates* program to help children with social-cognitive challenges, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD), learn constructive social interaction skills in the area of friendship making, social problem solving and emotional expression.

As educators and advocates in the field of ASD, we are of the opinion that it is important to teach children these concepts and the accompanying skills so that they continue to broaden their social understanding repertoire. *Pirates* is intentionally designed to make a difference in the lives of young children with ASD, children who find the social world perplexing and mystifying. The program is dedicated to children across the early years as they grow and develop their competencies and capabilities as social individuals.

– Dr. Margaret Anne Carter and Josie Santomauro

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CAPTAIN'S GUIDE

