

**2017 SUMMER LUNCH GROUPS®  
PARENT FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

The information contained in this summary was gather from the 28 families who completed the post-group survey at the end of the Summer 2017 program (a total of 42 families participated in the summer program).

86% of families reported observing at least one major change in their child during the program. Of the 14% that did not observe major changes, all but one family reported observing minor changes. 74% of families rated the program as “excellent” and 26% rated it as “very good.”

**PROGRAM ATTENDED**

**SEX**

Result	Responses	Percentage
8-11 (7/5 to 7/21/17)	12	42.8%
11-13 (7/24 to 8/9)	11	39.2%
14-17 (7/11 to 7/27)	3	10.7%
Don't know	2	7.1%

Result	Responses	Percentage
male	24	85.7%
female	4	14.2%
not stated	0	0.0%

**ATTENDED PREVIOUSLY?**

**MADE AT LEAST ONE MAJOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE  
(85.6% agreed)**

Result	Responses	Percentage
Yes	15	53.5%
No	13	46.4%

Result	Responses	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
2-Disagree	1	3.5%
3-No Opinion	3	10.7%
4-Agree	18	64.2%
5-Strongly Agree	6	21.4%

**PARENT COMMENTS REGARDING MAJOR CHANGES OBSERVED DURING SUMMER PROGRAM** (Based upon 24 parents responding that major changes were observed)

He is much more aware of safety issues, i.e. Crossing the streets, walking in the parking lot, etc...
He's also more aware of making noises when it's not socially acceptable to do so.
He seemed more open to try new food
Personal Hygiene Awareness

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He is much more communicative and now asks how people days were without prompting. When deciding where to go for dinner with a friend he started to say where he wanted to go but stopped himself and asked what she would prefer. So proud of that. Such progress
He seems more social around his peers
“A” was much more positive about participation, he looked forward to it and wasn't anxious anticipating it.
He's a little bit more agreeable to doing things.
Seems more patient and logical in his thought process. More willing to understand.
Trying new food, Table manners, Social awareness
He seemed to stop to listen more instead of interjecting when I was speaking to him.
“Z” seems to have learned to modulate his over--exuberance - using a regular voice unprompted or with 1 prompt much of the time. “Z” also has shown more interest in reciprocal, organic (non-repetitive) conversation. In addition, this summer, “Z” took an interest in my invitation to get together with group members- __ and __.
Confident, more social, less withdrawn
“M” improved on her social skill and not annoy other kids as much as she was.
Striving for Independence as he becomes an adult
“T” has been using his words to explain his feelings and he is more comfortable trying new foods.
Food choice increased
She was more open to try something new to eat without protest.
He was optimistic about attending each Lunch Group. Not once did he complain about any of the activities he participated in.
He also showed empathy towards his younger sister a couple of times.
More likely to follow directions given once
His listening/attention ability that also made some improvement in compliance. Better control with his emotions.
Made conversation about a non preferred topic.
I think that he is able to control his emotional response a little better, less dramatic
She could tell me what she did during group
Better control of his physical outbursts and is more remorseful after.

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**COMMENTS FROM PARENTS REPORTING THAT NO MAJOR CHANGES WERE OBSERVED** (4 parents out of 28 reported no major changes)

We weren't expecting a major change to occur due to the shortened summer session but he did have several incremental changes that I would consider more minor since they were small but moving toward changes that could be more significant. I'm going to put them in the next category.

I haven't observed any difference.

Socially more open however he need to be able to open to a conversation

I think "D" is showing slow but steady progress which is what's most comfortable for her.

**COMMENTS FROM PARENT REGARDING MINOR CHANGES OBSERVED**  
(Of those parents who reported no major changes, 75% reported minor changes.)

We've seen some gradual maturing all summer. By the time he got to Lunchgroups he had started to be more daring in trying new foods, which was reinforced in the program. We still get some resistance but it is much less that previous years. He's also constantly hungry which may be a part of his willingness. He also had started to do less stimming and by the time he got to Lunchgroups it had started to lessen already. We did a lot of swimming too which may be a factor.

When asked, "M" stated he would be interested to spend time with "J" because "J" is nice.

Still has very hard time to exchange conversations with peers

**WHAT PARENTS LIKED MOST ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

These comments were based mostly on parent observations of child behavior outside of group, observations and discussion of group videos shown during parent office meetings, and webinar meetings (videos are only shown during live office meetings).

The chance for the kids to socialize around food in a very natural environment.

Parent Web training & meetings

For me, I like the parent training. I wasn't capable of being as involved as during the school year with doing drop ins, but just being able to hear strategies, even if it has been repeated, is such a huge component for me. For "D" (husband), he likes that we have "Z" in a safe environment where he is sure he will grow and learn practical skills of socializing and communicating.

The ability to socialize and learn social skills. Executive Functioning skills.

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<p>The outings gave him real life experiences. He many times would offer info about his day after he asked how my day was.</p>
<p>It was safe program and Dr. Gale had more opportunities to observe certain behaviors</p>
<p>The extended days were very structured but still "fun" for the participants. It was more like summer camp, not summer school.</p>
<p>The safe environment</p>
<p>“D’s” eagerness to participate with a program, and to make other friends.</p>
<p>The parent meetings and immediate feedback about what went on during camp.</p>
<p>What I liked most was: The schedule was great this summer - with longer days and no break. “Z” continues to look forward to and thoroughly enjoy his time with the group. The parent meetings and webinar discussions were robust - maybe it was the chemistry of the people who participated.</p>
<p>That “M” enjoyed it.</p>
<p>All the fun and social activities. Our son always looked forward going to the summer lunch program.</p>
<p>Kids are out in public.</p>
<p>He has become much more social, and he has much more awareness of his strengths and weaknesses</p>
<p>“J” was very happy to be part of it</p>
<p>I like the consistency and that there is so much information for parents.</p>
<p>Structure</p>
<p>It's hard to tell when I wasn't there to observe personally. So far, I have only been able to attend one parent meeting and it was the first week. So, I can't really pin point what I liked about the program.</p>
<p>I liked the variety of activities the students participated in and the opportunity they were given to try new food.</p>
<p>The opportunity for “J” to meet new friends, grow socially/emotionally.</p>
<p>The depth of the concerns that the program can tackle/address. The individualized approached yet as a whole. Parents educational involvement.</p>
<p>Exposure to social settings without the family.</p>
<p>I liked the fact that the group was having fun while working on different behaviors occurring throughout the day, the fact tht it did feel like camp to Eli and not like a summer school, he had fun and was looking forward to the next day at group.</p>
<p>It gives her a chance to interact with peers, and try new foods</p>

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The effort to make it fun for the kids
Well organized, interesting outings that kept Jake engaged and it felt like camp rather and something he looked forward to. I never had to worry about his safety. I also liked that it was intensive so the interventions were more frequent

**WHAT PARENTS LIKED LEAST ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Too short.
Probably I expected more social skill development and “S’s” ability to interact in a group
I would have to say the lunch points only because I feel like I have to choose something! There was once that “Z” did something I said I was proud of and he asked if he could have a lunch point. That was great because it felt meaningful to him. I'm hoping that he will continue to ask in the school year program.
As I was watching Video in Arcade it did not appear to me that “D” knew he could play video games for free. He was not aware of the ability to do so.
I cant really say i liked something least but one thing is renden never remember what other kids names are and when he tell me about his animation that he wrote he cant tell me AT All What it was about or things that he said. He tells me wht he did during the day but cant give me specifics. He says he doesn't eemember. The friend that he said he could talk to abpit everything, he couldnt tell me his name. He only pointed him out.
N/A
The every other day format was restrictive for our family to have travel plans during that time. July is his dad's month off work, and he likes to take them on long weekends. Even so, the program was worth it.
Waking up so early! Lol
I don't have an answer for this. Other than wishing there were more dates available for the program.
“I” complained a lot.
Because “Z” has behaviors that are not oppositional or dramatic, I sometimes feel like I don't get as much feedback. (That said, the information I receive is great for me trying to deal with “Z’s” twin brother, “J”. “J” is a handful with his ODD!) Driving to Encino - although - not to be too corny - but I would drive wherever to have “Z” participate
That I couldn't participate more due to family circumstances.
traffic
na

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The length of time is too short
He is has hard time to keep a conversation with peers
Nothing.
N/a
The one thing I didn't like seeing from the first parent meeting was the outing where one of the boys chose to hide from the group. I understand the seriousness of why not to do it. However, it really disturbed me how he was treated in front of the group and public humiliated. I of course never mentioned it to "S" but she mentioned it to me and it scared her and she felt like that's how she would be treated if she made a mistake. I explained to her that the boy did something that scared the adults to think the worst and if her behavior was safe and respectful that she would be fine. Despite my efforts, she still felt "gun-shy" about continuing. That was actually one of the other reasons I couldn't get her out of the car that one morning.
<b>NOTE From Dr. Gale:</b> To read what the parent of the child who was spoken to had to say, click to go to General Parent Comments, page 10.
I wish there were more days provided for camp.
I think it would have been nice to visit some different places from previous years.
Nothing that I can think of so far.
Too short.
Since "E" does not have severe behaviors that can distract the whole group, I felt like he did not get a lot of attention since they were other kids that " took the spot light" with their behavior and needed more attention
Over too quickly
N/a
The 8:30am start time. Traffic was a nightmare. I also wish it was 4 days a week for the 2 week period.

**REPORT OF ANY SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS, STRATEGIES, OR RECOMMENDATIONS PARENTS FOUND HELPFUL**

I love the hero ticket/blue ticket system.
How to make request from Kids and give them directions How to get their attention while they are watching TV prompting correctly

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<p>Push-pull is something I have a clear visual for and is something I think about a lot. Reminding myself to remain calm a majority of the time and using a louder or firm voice as a tool instead of my main kind of reaction. I use environmental control a lot and have to keep reminding myself that its ok to get up and walk closer. I try to tell myself that I probably need the exercise anyway! Trying not to lecture but instead come up with clear, simple ways of correcting or responding to behavior.</p>
<p>no</p>
<p>Working with him on disappointments and how to handle them. Up until the last day he has been working the out better</p>
<p>“S” spends a lot of time in the bathroom and Dr. Gale had a plan for me to solve this problem</p>
<p>Social learning theory was helpful and more applicable than ABA. I'm now using the "4 steps" as well as waiting for him to change his disruptive behavior before we can proceed to do something else.</p>
<p>The reminders to stay calm when talking to our kids. Asking for a redo on attitude and respectful speaking. Still organizing in my mind the differences between punishment, negative/positive reinforcement.</p>
<p>What is most helpful to me is to understand, on a practical day-to-day level, how to implement behavior modification strategies. Sometimes the clinical definitions through me for a loop. I am best with the 1-2-3-4 - more of the practical application. Viewing the videos and hearing specific interventions is most helpful.</p>
<p>Dr. Bruce's calm demeanor.</p>
<p>Even though “G” had a hard time eating new foods every day, it has been very helpful in expanding his food list</p>
<p>Again, I didn't have the opportunity due to my own fault, of not being able to attend the other parent meetings making this is tough to answer.</p>
<p>I like how Dr. Gale was able to respond with humor in an intellectual manner when the students did not act accordingly.</p>
<p>Parenting Skills/how to approach situations .</p>
<p>“E” stopped getting services at home two years ago, it was nice getting access and information on other strategies and recommendation to deal with his issues aside from the ABA way based we last worked with.</p>
<p>Focus on positive reinforcement</p>
<p>The positive interventions and grandma's if then reward system.</p>

**PARENT COMMENTS REGARDING WEB MEETINGS AND OFFICE-BASED MEETINGS**

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I love the group videos and having the opportunity to get Dr Gale's expertise and professional insight. I told "A" how I saw in the videos how he was chewing his hair and this was more motivating for him to stop than my constant nagging.
I love seeing "I" interact with the other children. He seemed to have few problems/ activities that were videoed. I would have liked to have seen more of him.
I will reiterate my bias - my way of learning. I learn most how to parent "Z" (and "J") from the examples that you give. The theory and reasoning behind the interventions are helpful, however, I look for the practical information. What is my roadmap for addressing a behavior that needs modification - and I am more apt to do the work if I have a step by step approach.
I think it was great. Due to personal reasons I didn't participate as much as I wanted but "T" had a wonderful experience and was able to share with us each day.
I really enjoyed being able to watch videos of my child during Lunch Group Sessions.
I loved the parents meeting because it gave me a chance to see the videos and see exactly how "E" was at group...and also Dr. Gales input and interpretation on situations that occur during session was very informative and easy to follow
The parent dropins are great too get more specific information on my child's individual behaviors and interventions. I wish these meetings were longer and could be separate for each age group.

**PARENT REPORT OF HOW MUCH THEIR CHILD LOOKED FORWARD TO COMING TO GROUP**

<b>Result</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
almost always looked forward to it	15	55.5%
usually looked forward to it	2	7.4%
mixed, sometimes looked forward to it, but not always	6	22.2%
occasionally looked forward to it	0	0.0%
rarely looked forward to it	1	3.7%
complained about attending, but came with prompting or reminding	3	11.1%
constant struggle to get my child to attend	0	0.0%
cannot rate	0	0.0%

**PARENT REPORT FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO DID NOT CONSISTENTLY LOOK FORWARD TO COMING**

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<b>Result</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
improved quite a bit	0	0.0%
improved some	3	30.0%
no noticeable change	4	40.0%
became more difficult as time passed	3	30.0%
cannot say	0	0.0%

**OVERALL PROGRAM RATING**

<b>Result</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	20	74.0%
Very Good	7	25.9%
Good	0	0.0%
Fair	0	0.0%
Poor	0	0.0%
Unable to rate	0	0.0%

**GENERAL PARENT COMMENTS**

Thank you so much dr. Gale for a great experience for “M” this summer!
I am not aware of the above methods / strategies.
I need to learn so much more. I feel like i am so far behind and now i am freaking out cuz i should be more up to speed. With so much going on with my health and family issues I have not dedicated myself as much as I should. I will change this behavior in the next session. Maybe you can use the tools on me to change my behavior. Lol
I need to work on skill building behaviors and fewer big rewards.those backfire on me! I also find when I'm using the 4 step, it pulls me out of my angry response because now it's almost like a game I'm playing with myself, and turns down my emotional reaction which benefits everyone. I also use this skill with my 10 yr old daughter, which helps her. And I do it for myself with them listening so they understand we're always learning, even as adults. Thank you!!
I need more practice. The meetings were so amazingly helpful. Growing up in a screaming/yelling to get things done home, I am happy to find a new way to do parenting.

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As you well know, I am a big fan of the Lunch Group. It is an organic and extremely effective intervention for the "kids" and the parents. No doubt the parent piece is essential and you provide so many resources. What I have learned over the last year is that the process of teaching appropriate and successful social skills to a child who has challenges is a marathon- not a sprint. It takes education, dedication and consistency. And that said, as soon as I feel I am making progress, a new issue raises its head. By the way, my participation has helped me deal with "J", "Z" brother , even more than "Z". "J" is super smart, with a diagnosis of ADHD and can be completely oppositional and defiant.

na

This program has been integral to "S's" progress in the game that we call life? I cannot express how much I appreciate Dr. Gale and staff. I thank you for your time and help.

I am continuing to learn and will not stop doing so. I still have a long way to go but I have definitely gotten better.

I would like to learn more about the tools introduced in the one webinar I was able to attend. This was such a short session that overall it was hard to detect marked changes in her behavior if any. I plan to visit the sites suggested in the webinar to learn as much as I can. I can't tell you how much we appreciated having "S" join your group this summer. Thank you for everything.

Thank you Dr. Gale, Dr. Mazor, and team for all of the wonderful service you provided for "D" and all the kids who participated in Lunch Group! We appreciate all of you and we can't wait for "D" to continue attending group through out the school year.

**NOTE FROM DR. GALE:** This is the child who another parent felt was "humiliated" during the first session when he purposely hid from everyone on Page 6.

As a parent, I need more reinforcement/ CE to retain the different strategies and approach. Looking forward to next sessions.

This group was a great way for me as a parent to learn new ways to deal with my son's behaviors , to refresh my ways an hopefully to get better results in the near future.

Thank you for that! I hope we'll be able to continue the program during this coming school year.

While I said disagree for pretty much everything, it's only because I filled one of these out a month ago, and I haven't seen great improvement in a months time, it takes a lot longer to see improvements with her. She is still doing great, and I am still implementing things I ha e learned from group, but if the questions are do I see improvements from 3 weeks ago, then the answer is disagree