



Early registration (by Sept. 12th)

General	\$40
ISI members	\$25

Registration (Sept. 13–26)

General	\$50
ISI members	\$35

On-site (if space available)

General	\$60
ISI members	\$45

Tuition includes a copy of the documentary, **Tags on Ice**, handouts, continental breakfast and light lunch.

### Registration Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Ice rink name:

Your position:

ISI membership number:

Make your check payable to:

The Pryor Foundation

Mail, with your registration, to:

The Pryor Foundation

P.O. Box 216

El Granada, CA 94018-0216

Register on-line at:

[specialneedsskatersworkshop@eventbrite.com](mailto:specialneedsskatersworkshop@eventbrite.com)

THE WINTER LODGE ICE RINK  
THE PRYOR FOUNDATION  
P.O. Box 216  
EL GRANADA, CA 94018-0216

# WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INTO YOUR SKATING PROGRAM



A workshop for  
coaches and parents

September 27, 2012  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Palo Alto, CA



Sponsored by:  
**The Winter Lodge Ice Rink and  
 The Pryor Foundation**

Instructor Lynn Loar, Ph.D., LCSW, is a social worker and ice skating coach. She designed and has directed the program for children with special needs and their families at the Winter Lodge since 1985, and is featured in the documentary **TAGS on Ice**. Lynn is the president of the Pryor Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization focusing on shaping behavior with positive reinforcement. ([www.thepryorfoundation.org](http://www.thepryorfoundation.org))



# WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

## The need

Roughly one in one hundred fifty children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or similar developmental delay. Some of these children come to your rink for skating lessons, but their unique needs make them hard to serve. They and their parents often leave disappointed and discouraged.

This five-hour workshop provides clear, specific and practical techniques to help coaches and managers understand the challenges these children face. With a few accommodations, you can make skating a positive and empowering experience for them and their families.

## Participants will learn

- \*to identify the sensory stimuli in ice rinks that make it difficult for children with ASD;
- \*how to work with a child's limited mobility and heightened anxiety;
- \*coaching techniques to use with children who avoid eye contact and may not understand language;
- \*ways to include parents and siblings to create a recreational activity for the entire family.

## Schedule for the Day

Time	Event
8:45–9:00	Registration at Trinity Hall, <b>Holy Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, CA</b>
9:00–9:15	Welcome, introductions and overview
9:15–9:45	Why encourage children with special needs and their families to skate?
9:45–10:15	What are “special needs” and how do I cope with them?
10:15–10:30	Break
10:30–11:30	Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and its application to athletics
11:30–12:00	How do I get started at my rink?
12:00–12:30	Lunch & move to <b>Winter Lodge</b>
12:30–2:00	Getting a child off to a good start: practical techniques and strategies.

## Positive Reinforcement

The techniques taught in this workshop are based on positive reinforcement. They are compatible with principles used in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), which many special education programs use.

## Basic Principles

- \*Breaking a behavior into very small steps;
- \*Marking progress incrementally;
- \*Using a point system to keep track of successes;
- \*Identifying the rewards that will work best as positive reinforcement for each child.

## Specific Techniques for Skating

- \*Helping children with special needs adjust to the unfamiliar surroundings characteristic of ice rinks, including lighting, temperature, humidity, sound and smells;
- \*Breaking down the new experience into discrete steps: putting on the skates, walking in skates, using the rail, taking first steps with confidence.