

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. A result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism impacts the normal development of the brain especially in the areas related to social interaction and communications skills.

The condition traditionally called "autism" is part of a set of five closely related conditions which all share symptoms and fall under the broad diagnostic umbrella of "Pervasive Developmental Disorders." They each share three primary symptoms of impaired social interaction, impaired communication, and characteristic behavior patterns. Following is a brief summary of the conditions:

Autistic Disorder -- occurs in males four times more than females and involves moderate to severe disturbances in communication, socialization and behavior.

Rett's Disorder -- diagnosed primarily in females who exhibit typical development until approximately 18 months when children begin to regress especially in terms of motor skills and loss of abilities in other areas. A key indicator of Rett's Disorder is the appearance of repetitive meaningless movements or gestures.

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder -- involves a clear regression in multiple areas of functioning including motor skills, bladder control and social skills following two years of normal development.

Asperger's Disorder -- typically diagnosed later in life than other disorders on the spectrum, persons with Asperger's Disorder usually function in the average to above average intelligence range and have no delays in language skills. Deficits appear most often in the areas of social skills, concentration and coordination.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified -- includes children that do not fully meet the criteria for the other specific disorders or those that do not have the degree of impairment associated with those disorders.

UNDERSTAND

Individuals with autism interact with others differently. They often appear to live a life of isolation, have difficulty understanding and expressing emotion, and may express attachment in a different manner.

Approximately 40 percent of individuals with autism do not speak. Others have echolalia, a parrot-like repeating of what has been said to them. Persons with autism often have difficulty understanding the nonverbal aspect of language such as social cues, body language and vocal qualities (pitch, tone and volume).

Individuals with autism typically have difficulty relating to objects and events and a great need for "sameness" which makes them upset if objects in their environment or time schedules change. Children with autism may not "play" with toys in the same manner as their peers and may become fixated to specific objects.

Persons with autism may greatly overreact to sensory stimuli that they see, hear, touch, feel or taste. They may also not react at all to various stimuli from the environment.

Children with autism often have a different rate of development especially in the areas of communication, social and cognitive skills. In contrast, motor development may occur at a typical rate. Sometimes skills will appear in children with autism at the expected rate or time and then disappear.

Autism is a lifelong disability that is generally diagnosed before the age of three years old. However, often children are misdiagnosed or not diagnosed until later in life.

Common Interventions and Treatments

A basic rule for treating autism is the earlier the intervention, the better. Coordinated, structured services that take into account the "whole person" and the person's family are most likely to be successful.

Taken from www.easterseals.com

If you suspect that a child in your care may have autism or other developmental delays, contact Amy Franklin, Inclusion Specialist, for further assistance at 1-800-811-1127 ext. 3.

A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have responded so quickly with your 2006 Provider Information Updates. We are entering the information as it comes in. Almost all have had rate and/or schedule changes. Those who have not responded may have your 'internet information' inactivated until we receive your current information. You can visit our site at www5.semo.edu/ccrr to have a look.

You can tell families that call you seeking child care about the site when you are at capacity in addition to giving them our 800 phone number. Of course, our 'web address' is listed in the phone book in our ad in the business section. The convenience of the web site does not replace the personal service we are used to providing when a parent or a caregiver calls for referrals. If they want to speak to a referral counselor, they can still call and talk to either Syd or I.

REMINDER: All facilities who have received accreditation, do remember to send (or fax) CCR&R a copy of your Accreditation Certificate. We will not indicate your accreditation to families seeking accredited child care until we have a copy of the certificate on file. (Yes, callers are now asking for information about accredited facilities!)

THANK YOU for calling us about your vacancies. We really do appreciate this small favor. Congratulations to home provider **Judy Stacy** in Poplar Bluff, **Kim Clauser (Kids Corner Preschool LLC)** in Fredericktown, and home provider **Jane Vance (Mrs. Beasley's)** in Festus and **Nancy Vos (The Mini School of Jefferson Co.)** in House Springs, our April, May and June winners. Remember, when you let me know of vacancies, I will mention you specifically to the families seeking child care in your area. **Keep those calls coming in!**

Remember, children learn through play! Happy playing!

- Karen McDougall
Referral Coordinator



**ATTENTION ALL
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

**★ QUARTERLY
DRAWING ★**

We receive calls daily from parents seeking child care. We want to provide them with the most accurate information possible.

Please call us each month to let us know about your fee changes and if you have openings. If we are not in the office, just leave a message on my voice mail.

Every quarter we will enter the name of each provider who calls with vacancies into a drawing to be held on the last weekday of the month!
*Call 573-290-5577
Toll-free, 1-800-811-1127 ex. 1*

**WHO WILL BE OUR
NEXT WINNERS??**

WILL IT BE YOU?



Hand It Over

A finger paint recipe from Family Fun

Sure it's messy, but in the summertime, cleaning off finger paints can be as simple as dashing through the sprinkler. Here's a recipe for washable paints that will keep your artists well supplied.



Mix 2 tablespoons of sugar and 1/3 cup of cornstarch in a saucepan, then slowly add 2 cups of cold water. Cook over low heat for 5 minutes, stirring constantly until the mixture is a clear, smooth gel. When cool, stir in 1/4 cup of liquid dishwashing soap. Scoop into plastic containers, and stir in food coloring drops or tempera paints.

TRAINING NEWS

There is some new training that will be on the training calendar this upcoming year. The Basic CCOT has been completely revised. It will now consist of a total of 9 hours including the following:

- 3 hours of D.A.P. 1: Child Development
- 3 hours of Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
- 3 hours of Health, Environmental Safety, and Sanitation.

There will also be a new P.A.C.E. training that will consist of a total of 9 hours and will consist of the following:

- 3 hours of D.A.P. II
- 3 hours of Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
- 3 hours of Safety

All day Early Childhood Fall Seminar plans are underway!

The following is a breakdown of our scheduled speakers:

Keynote: Kathryn Zellich, "How Art Happens"

Breakout Sessions:

- **Mary Gosche**, "Staff Retention through Organizational Climate"
- **Susan Blanford**, St. Louis Teacher Recycle Center: "The Play Experience: Building Courage, Resilience and Tenacity in Young Children" (\$15 additional cost for this session, each individual will receive a play kit to take home with them).
- **Amy Franklin & Christy Colyer**, "Make Lemons into Lemonade: Using Positives to Guide Children"
- **Charla Myers**, "Promoting Children's Success: Building Relationships & Creating Supportive Environments"
- **Diane Miesner**, "Oh the Places You'll Go"
- **Sara Garner**, "Documenting Children's Work"
- **Kathryn Zellich**, "Integrating Art with Science"
- **Jill Steffens & Jane Moldenhauer**, TBA

We are also excited to announce the St. Louis Teacher Recycle Center will be bringing "Van Go" down with them!

Van Go is a van filled with recycled materials in which individuals will have the opportunity to purchase passes to stuff a bag with the materials on board. Brochures for the seminar will go out mid summer.



- Heather Fisher
Training Coordinator



Did you Know?

- The diagnosis of **autism** has been estimated to occur in 1 in 500 individuals
- Is four times more prevalent in males than females
- Has been growing at an estimated rate of 100-200 percent every five years

CDA Preparation Class
September 2006 thru April
2007

Location: Educare Office
301 North Clark
Cape Girardeau

Fee: \$80 for materials and
supplies
\$325 for Application
Fee

Partial Scholarships may be
available. Contact Educare
for more information @
573-651-9171 ext. 103.