



The Center for Autism

at The Children's Institute

Imagine living in a world where it's difficult or nearly impossible to concentrate. Where taste, touch and sound are unreliable senses, delivering false messages to your brain. Where you are attached obsessively to objects, but have difficulty connecting with people. For many children with autism, this is the world they inhabit.

It's estimated that one child in 150 is diagnosed with autism,* making it the fastest growing developmental disability in the country. Autism is a spectrum disorder, meaning that each of the 1.5 million Americans affected by this disability experiences it in a unique way, thereby making it difficult to identify and challenging to treat.

The Children's Institute (CI) has been caring for children with autism for more than 15 years. However, the recent dramatic increase in the rate at which autism is being diagnosed, and the need for parents to have comprehensive, knowledgeable support once their child is diagnosed, necessitates that The Children's Institute do more.

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007

The Center for Autism at The Children's Institute will offer children and families an integrated approach to treatment. Education in specially designed classrooms at The Day School will be combined with individualized treatment in physician clinics. In addition to traditional approaches, treatment also will include complementary care such as nutrition counseling, biofeedback, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral management and exercise. This comprehensive network of services will enable The Children's Institute to create an environment where all children receive the individualized care that will make it possible for them to achieve their own greatest potential.

A dynamic environment, The Center for Autism will produce evidence-based research that will have a direct effect on patient treatment. The Center will foster an environment where the best and brightest thinkers in the field can collaborate as colleagues to better explore and identify the most effective, productive treatment models.

Through *The Campaign for an Amazing Future*, The Children's Institute will become a national leader in serving the needs of children with autism and their families.



The
Children's Institute

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Facts about Autism*

Did you know...

- 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism
- 67 children are diagnosed per day
- a new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes
- more children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined
- autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- autism costs the nation more than \$90 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade
- autism receives less than 5 percent of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism
- there is no medical detection or cure for autism

* Source: www.autismspeaks.org



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