Emory Autism Center
Services

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Georgia Department of Education Webinar
September 25, 2017
Autism before the 1990’s

1 in 2,000?
1 in 500?

CADEF
Emory Autism Resource Center

Opened in 1991

Co-Directors
Gail McGee, PhD and Joel Bregman, MD

Diagnosis
Family Support and Resources
Early Intervention

Walden Preschool Program
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) IN GEORGIA TODAY...

Counties served by EAC since 1991

A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Georgia

Findings from the Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP) help us understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. Read on to learn more about ASD in Georgia and how this important information can be useful to you.

About 1 in 64 or 1.6% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by MADDSP in 2012. This percentage is about the same as the average percentage identified with ASD (1.5%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD.

1 in 64

Boys were more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black and Hispanic children.

4.9x MORE LIKELY among boys vs girls

1.3x MORE LIKELY among white vs black children

1.5x MORE LIKELY among white vs Hispanic children

About 88% of children identified with ASD had concerns about their development noted in their health and/or education records by age 3 years.

About 41% of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years.

Even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, about half of children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after age 4 years and 3 months.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • Community Report on Autism • 2016
Vision

Supporting meaningful improvements in quality of life for individuals with ASD across the lifespan

Mission

To be a valued resource for people with ASD, their families, professionals, and others from the earliest signs of ASD throughout the lifespan by providing affordable, accessible, evidence-based, and useful services and information to each person we serve, and by increasing capacity for support within local communities across Georgia.

Values

Inclusion
- Respect
- Choices
- Early through Lifespan

Meaningful Results
- Evidence-based
- Positive Behavior Supports

Quality of Life
- Natural Environments
- Independence
- Community
Early Childhood

Early Emory
Center for Child Development and Enrichment
(formerly “Walden”)

Intake and Referral
Assessment
Behavior Support
Training
Medication Support
Research and Program Evaluation

School-Age Education and Transition
Monarch Program

Adult
myLIFE Series

Serves individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) of all ages
Approximately 60 faculty and staff
5 full-time faculty; 3 part or adjunct
23 full-time staff
26 part-time staff
Many trainees and volunteers
Early Childhood

Early Emory
Center for Child Development and Enrichment
(formerly “Walden”)

- Inclusive Preschool Program
  - Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI)
- Toddlers – Pre-K
- NAEYC Accredited
- GA Bright from the Start Pre-K
• **Early Emory** now led by Dr. Laurie Vismara
• Started as Walden started 30 years ago by Dr. Gail McGee

• Pioneer in early intervention and inclusion
• International model of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) within inclusive preschool
• *Inclusion: Better together!*
• **Social Communication**
Now enrolling toddlers – with and without autism

Emory Clairmont Campus near Decatur

Early Emory tours: 404-727-3964

www.early.emory.edu

Contact: Dr. Laurie Vismara
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404-727-8350
School-Age Education and Transition
Monarch Program

• **In-School Support (K-21)**
  - Helping students with autism succeed in their neighborhood schools
  - Inclusion and positive behavior support consultation for students
  - Partnerships with Georgia School Systems
  - Personnel training and support

• **Parent and Student Support**
  - Individual goal planning

• **Transition**
  - Partnership with Georgia Department of Public Health
    - Individualized Transition to Adulthood Program (ITAP)
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
    - Skills and Interest Assessments

• **Adult Higher Education Support**
  - Emory University students
  - High-school summer experience
  - GT peer mentoring
  - Training and consultation at other universities

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myLIFE

- engage in fun, age appropriate activities on the Emory campus
- interact with similar-aged, typically-developing peer mentors
- continue to learn, build, practice and have success with skills across the social, communication, adaptive/self-help, personal development and leisure domains
myLIFE at Emory University teaches adults with autism independence

April 15, 2015

https://youtu.be/ODx9AU1EaJk
Future...
Emory Autism Center
On the Cusp of myLIFE...
Autism Transition and Adult Program Plan

Current...
• myLIFE
• Adult Social Engagement Groups

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Intake and Referral
Assessment
Behavior Support
Training
Medication Support
Research and Program Evaluation
EAC Screening and Assessment

- Early Autism Screening and Follow-up
- Early Diagnostic Assessments – infant - age 8
- Training in state-of-the-art autism assessments
- Research on use of technology to help with ASD diagnosis

ADOS-2 Clinical Workshop, Nov 8-10, 2017

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EAC Behavioral Support and Skill Building Program

Contact: Sharon Hynes
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**What we do:**
- provides individualized positive behavior support using principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) focused on functional and meaningful skills intervention with individuals ASD, their families, and the individuals who work with them.

**Our Goal:**
- To increase and enhance opportunities for rewarding experiences and community inclusion through both skill building and replacement of behaviors that negatively impact individuals with ASD.

**Who We Serve:**
- Individuals of all ages from early childhood through adulthood who have a diagnosis of ASD, or documented symptoms of ASD, who are seeking services to increase their ability to be independent.
ADOLESCENT AND ADULT MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Supplementing behavior support with medication management

- 404-727-0094

Dr. Joe Cubells

Danielle Belva, MSN, APRN
CAPACITY BUILDING IN GEORGIA
TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OPPORTUNITIES

Students
- Undergraduate - Psychology
- Graduate – OT, PT, Special Education
- Medical and Nursing

Supervision
- Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)
- Psychologists

Continuing Professional Education
- Georgia Autism Assessment Collaborative (GAAC) – psychologists
- Educators

Contact: Sharon Hynes
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EAC OUT AND ABOUT

Professional Meetings
- Atlanta Autism Consortium
- Georgia Autism Conference
- International Meeting for Autism Research
- Association for University Centers on Disabilities
- Division of Early Childhood
- OCALI
Connecting the Atlanta Autism Communities

Doing together what no one organization can do on its own

www.atlantaautismconsortium.org
Thank you!

www.psychiatry.emory.edu/autism

https://www.facebook.com/EmoryAutismCenter/

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