

Children's Specialized Hospital Center for Autism



Comprehensive evaluation, treatment, and resources
for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

About Children's Specialized Hospital

Children's Specialized Hospital is the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special health challenges — from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries, to developmental and behavioral issues like autism and mental health. At numerous New Jersey locations, our pediatric specialists partner with families to make our many innovative therapies and medical treatments more personalized and effective... so children can achieve more of their goals.

About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability involving a combination of challenges including social, communication, and restricted and/or repetitive behaviors or interests. ASD is known as a spectrum disorder as the characteristics affect each person differently and in varying degrees. ASD can also be described based on severity and amount of support needed.



Levels of ASD

LEVEL 1

← ●

Difficulty initiating or responding to social interactions

●

Difficulty switching between activities

●

Problems with organization and planning

Requires support

LEVEL 2

●

Noticeable deficits in verbal and nonverbal communication even with supports. Limited initiation of social interactions

●

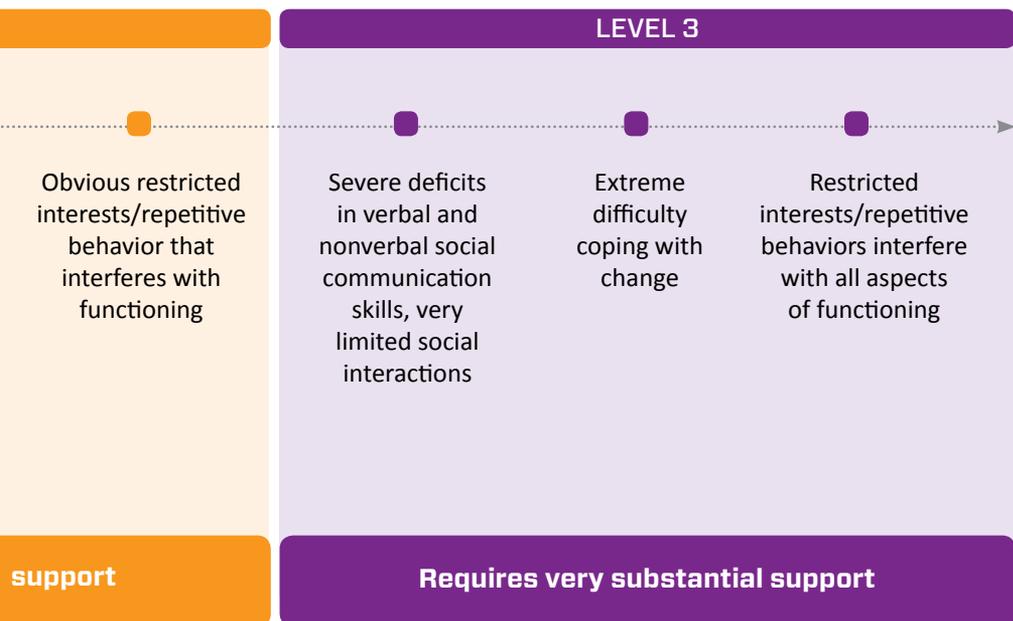
Inflexible; difficulty coping with change

Requires substantial



Early detection and early intervention are very important to help children reach their full potential. Some red flags for ASD include:

- Lack of warm, joyful expressions
- Lack of sharing interest or enjoyment
- Lack of pointing to objects, showing interest (look at objects when another person points to them)
- Lack of response to name
- Difficulty making eye contact
- Limited use of gestures
- Difficulty making friends
- Play may be repetitive or show limited imagination
- Repetitive speech or movements
- Trouble adjusting to changes, likes things to be the same
- Loss of skills previously demonstrated
- Over or under sensitive to sound, texture, light, or smells



Our Program

The Autism Program at Children's Specialized Hospital follows best practices and is one of the most comprehensive, high volume programs for children and adolescents with ASD and their families in the country.



Children's Specialized Hospital is the leading program in the region for comprehensive services, research, outreach and training for children and adolescents living with ASD and their families. The Autism Program provides coordinated, multidisciplinary care focused on early identification and treatment of autism. Professionals and families partner together in making sure children receive the services they need.

Diagnostic Evaluation:

The multidisciplinary autism team at Children's Specialized Hospital consists of expert clinicians trained in using gold standard evaluation tools:

- Developmental & Behavioral Pediatricians
- Licensed behavioral health professionals
- Speech-language pathologists
- Occupational therapists
- Pediatric nurse practitioners



Evaluations may include neurodevelopmental, psychology, speech-language and occupational therapy assessments. The team works closely with you and your family to understand your concerns, determine a diagnosis, and partner with you to develop goals and a proper treatment plan.

Treatment Approach:

Once a child is diagnosed, an individualized treatment plan is developed that may include:

- Referrals provided for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
- Early intervention
- Feeding and nutrition therapies
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychology
- Social skills groups
- Speech and language therapy
- Sub-specialty medical care
 - Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics
 - Psychiatry
 - Neurology
 - Physiatry

Special Needs Primary Care for Children with ASD

Special Needs Primary Care is a family-centered medical home, providing children with special healthcare needs and their siblings outstanding pediatric healthcare services.

Special Needs Primary Care is the central resource for all of a child's healthcare needs, offering comprehensive and specialized coordination of a child's care from start to finish; including coordination between Children's Specialized Hospital medical providers and service providers outside of the organization.



Research



Children's Specialized Hospital is at the forefront of research for diagnosis and treatment of autism and is part of the state's only pediatric academic health campus. Patients and families participate in research studies focused on improving outcomes for children with autism, such as:

- Improving early screening and diagnosis of children from traditionally underserved communities
- Enhancing models of care coordination for children and adolescents with ASD
- Studies to identify medications that may help children and adolescents with ASD or related concerns

Resources



Children's Specialized Hospital empowers families by offering the most comprehensive services and resources in the country, including:

- Autism Resource Community HUB – The only one-stop, virtual hub for pediatric autism resources. Visit www.childrens-specialized.org/kohlsautismawareness
- Parent Progress Activity Log app (available for Apple and Android devices)
- Healthier Me app (available for the Apple iPhone)
- Community education and outreach program – Training for the community and service providers to promote understanding, inclusion, and safety of children with ASD and their families as well as training to child care sites across NJ on developmental screening
- Free, community-based developmental screenings
- Family resources – Free parent workshops and support groups
- Recreation and camp programs



Close To Home Care:

With multiple locations throughout New Jersey offering autism services, families of children with ASD do not have to travel far for expert evaluation, treatment, and care.

- Bayonne
- Clifton
- Egg Harbor
- Hamilton
- Mountainside
- Newark
- New Brunswick
- Toms River (2)
- Warren



Why Choose Children's Specialized Hospital?

- Nationally renowned autism specialists



- Former member of federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IACC), setting the national autism research agenda



- Presenters at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) which contributes to establishing best practices and innovative care throughout the world



- Consultant to limited resource countries interested in establishing autism programs



- 99% of our patients would recommend our service to others, *Press Ganey independent survey*



- Recipient of multiple research grants from NJ Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism



- Special Needs Primary Care practice first in New Jersey to receive a Patient-Centered Medical Home designation from the National Committee For Quality Assurance (NCQA)



- Provider of comprehensive services from birth to young adulthood



- "Top Children's Hospital," *The Leapfrog Group*
- "Top Children's Hospitals," *NY Magazine*
- "Hospital of the Year," *NJ Biz*



- Recipient of international Safe Kids Worldwide grant to create safety program for children with ASD



Children's Specialized Hospital is the largest regional provider of services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). We serve over 6,500 children and adolescents with ASD across many New Jersey sites each year.

As the leader in ASD education, research, and treatment, Children's Specialized Hospital offers a wealth of multi-media resources on ASD. The Kohl's Autism Awareness community hub is a virtual community containing resources for children with ASD, family members, and other community members.

Visit the www.childrens-specialized.org/KohlsAutismAwareness to start your journey!



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