Resources To Learn More About Autism

Regional

Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC)
For children birth to five
Phone: (716) 880-3875
www.wchob.org/ecdc

Autism Society of America – WNY Chapter
Phone: 716-633-2275
www.autismwny.org

Center for Autism Support and Education (CASE)/
Parent Network of Western NY
Phone: (716) 332-4170
www.parentnetworkwny.org

NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
(OPWDD)
www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_community_connections/
autism_platform

Developmental Disability Alliance of WNY
www.ddawny.org

Western New York Developmental Disabilities
Services Office
(716) 317-2000

Parent to Parent of New York State –
Western Office (Buffalo)
(716) 517-3448
www.parenttoparentnys.org/Regional/western.htm

National

Autism Speaks
www.autismspeaks.org
www.autismspeaks.org/espanol

Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org

American Academy of Pediatrics – Autism
www.aap.org/healthtopics/autism.cfm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/families.html

National Institute of Health – Autism
http://health.nih.gov/topic/Autism

National Institute of Neurological
Disorders & Stroke – Autism
www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/autism
http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/autismo.htm

Contact Information

The Children’s Guild Foundation
Autism Spectrum Disorder Center at
Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo

Western New York’s only multi-disciplinary center

219 Bryant Street
Buffalo, NY 14222

Phone: (716) 878-7600
Fax: (716) 878-1697
Website: www.wchob.org/autism
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

www.wchob.org
www.kaleidahealth.org

Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo is the only
provider of medically-based diagnostic services for autism
in Western New York. In addition to the professionals
and staff in the departments directly involved in the
multidisciplinary center, Women & Children’s Hospital
offers a comprehensive range of pediatric specialty
services to provide support and testing such as
occupational and speech therapy, nutrition and feeding,
genetics and sleep disorders. Many of the services are
provided by the Robert Warner M.D. Center for Children
with Special Needs.

Language assistance services are available free of charge for
anyone who has a need for an interpreter.
Tenemos servicios de ayuda en Español, para cualquiera que
necesita un intérprete.
Who we are

The Children’s Guild Foundation Autism Spectrum Disorder Center at Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo is the only, family-focused, multidisciplinary autism spectrum disorder (ASD) center of its kind in Western New York.

Through generous support from The Children’s Guild Foundation and Kaleida Health and partnership with the University at Buffalo, the ASD Center takes a unique approach to the diagnosis of children with this complex and increasingly prevalent disorder.

The goals of the Center are to improve access and turnaround time to diagnosis and provide information and support to families and the community.

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of brain-based disorders that affect a child’s behavior, social and communication skills. Autism affects children of every racial, ethnic and socioeconomic background but each child on the spectrum is unique with different symptoms, strengths and challenges. It is estimated that 1 out of 88 children has an ASD and boys are four times more likely to be affected. There is no known cause or cure for autism but early intervention and services can have a significant impact on a child’s development.

Evaluation & Diagnosis

The ASD Center has the only multidisciplinary, team-based approach to evaluation and diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorders in Western New York.

The process starts with a thorough review of a child's medical, social and educational history and is followed by an evaluation by specialists from different medical disciplines.

During the 90-minute appointment, the child will receive a developmental, neurological, and psychological evaluation. After the visit, the medical team will discuss the child and determine the need for any additional testing, services or care. Once testing is complete, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss diagnosis and recommendations.

Family Support

The Center’s clinical social worker and nurse are available to answer questions, help coordinate appointments and provide families with information and support. Information about monthly parent groups, sessions for families newly diagnosed with ASDs and other community and recreational opportunities is available on the Center’s website: www.wchob.org/autism.

First Signs

While every child develops at a different rate, the following are signs that you may want to address with your pediatrician:

Early Childhood

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by nine months or thereafter
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching, or waving by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age

School age

- Difficulty maintaining a typical conversation
- Challenges making friends
- Extreme frustration with changes in schedule or routine
- Lack of eye contact, facial expression or gestures
- Repetitive behavior or language
- Intense and unusual interests
- Little or no interest in other people
- Difficulty understanding what others are thinking and feeling
- Tendency to “lose control” when in new, strange environment or when overwhelmed, angry or frustrated
- Seeming like they are “in their own world”