

A young girl with dark hair is shown in profile, blowing a dandelion seed. The background is a bright, green field under a clear blue sky. The dandelion seed is in the foreground, and many other seeds are floating in the air, creating a sense of movement and lightness. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

National Autism Center

A Center of May Institute

MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATION, AND OTHER FIELDS OF STUDY ARE
CONSISTENTLY COMING TO THE SAME CONCLUSION — EVIDENCE-BASED
PRACTICE IS CRITICAL FOR EFFECTIVE TREATMENT AND CARE.



The National Autism Center is May Institute's Center for the Promotion of Evidence-based Practice. We are dedicated to serving children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) by providing reliable information, promoting best practices, and offering comprehensive resources for families, practitioners, and communities.

An advocate for evidence-based treatment approaches, the National Autism Center identifies effective programming and shares practical information with families about how to respond to the challenges they face. The Center also conducts applied research and develops training and service models for practitioners. Finally, the Center works to shape public policy concerning ASD and its treatment through the development and dissemination of national standards of practice.

Guided by a Professional Advisory Board, the Center brings concerned constituents together to help individuals with ASD and their families pursue a better quality of life.

Together, May Institute and the National Autism Center are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country and beyond.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

“In a field rife with fads, pseudoscience, and popular, yet unproven, interventions, the findings of the National Standards Project are a welcome and much-needed counterbalance to much of the hyperbole for both professionals and families.”

—PETER F. GERHARDT, ED.D., FOUNDING CHAIR, SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AT ORGANIZATION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

Resources for the Community

National Standards Project

The National Standards Project answers one of the most pressing public health questions of our time—how do we effectively treat individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)?

In 2009, the National Autism Center completed an unprecedented multi-year project—the National Standards Project—to establish a set of standards for effective, research-validated educational and behavioral interventions for children on the spectrum. These standards identify treatments that effectively target the core symptoms of ASD. The resulting National Standards Report is the most comprehensive analysis available to date about treatments for children and adolescents with ASD.

This groundbreaking report covers a broad range of applied treatments and identifies the level of scientific evidence available for each. For the first time, families can find specific information about the age groups, treatment targets, and diagnostic populations to which these treatments have been applied. The National Standards Report is a single, authoritative source of guidance for parents, caregivers, educators, and service providers as they make informed treatment decisions.

A Parent's Guide to Evidence-Based Practice and Autism

Everywhere they turn, parents of children with ASD are bombarded with treatment choices — all of which claim to be effective. This manual published by the National Autism Center is designed to support parents as they make decisions about their child's treatment. It discusses the complexity of

diagnostic evaluations for children on the spectrum, identifies and describes effective treatments, and outlines the importance of professional judgment and using data to guide treatment decisions.

Evidence-Based Practice and Autism in the Schools Educator Manual

Schools today face the challenge of providing appropriate services to a diverse and increasingly numerous student population diagnosed with ASD. To achieve this goal, evidence-based practice is essential. This comprehensive, award-winning manual was produced to assist school professionals as they strive to help these students reach their potential. It outlines topics such as the current state of research findings, professional judgment and data-based clinical decision making, values and preferences of families, and capacity building.

Both manuals are available for free download or for purchase from our website. Production is underway for a manual for physicians.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic

The ASD Clinic is a program of the National Autism Center and May Institute. The Clinic offers diagnostic evaluations and therapeutic treatment services to children and adolescents with ASD and their families. Services include standardized assessments, behavioral treatment, social skills development, and parent support. The ASD Clinic is located in Randolph, Mass., with satellite facilities in West Springfield and West Roxbury, Mass.

Professional Advisory Board

The National Autism Center's Professional Advisory Board includes scientists and leading specialists in pediatrics, neuroscience, early intervention, education, and advocacy who are nationally recognized for their contributions to the field of autism. Among its members are individuals responsible for major innovations in the treatment of autism over the past 30 years. Pioneers in their fields, they have played crucial roles in the research, development, and dissemination of effective programming. As members of the Professional Advisory Board, they bring their substantial combined expertise to bear on the mission of the National Autism Center.

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