



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**AUTISM SCREENING CLINIC UNVEILED AT THE
CENTER FOR DEVELOPING MINDS**

Los Gatos, CA – March 4, 2008 – The Center for Developing Minds, a multidisciplinary clinic with experts in the identification and treatment of children with developmental variations, has expanded its services to include an Autism Screening Clinic. The new screening clinic features mini-assessments for the early identification of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). This unique program will support community clinicians in the prompt recognition of autism, so local children with ASDs, who might not otherwise receive an evaluation, will be directed into appropriate community resources and services. Children with ASDs who begin intensive therapy at a young age achieve better overall outcomes.

Physicians today play a particularly important role in the early recognition of autism spectrum disorders. At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, pediatricians were advised to screen *all* children for ASDs during their 18- and 24-month-old visits. Therefore, it is critical that pediatricians be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of ASDs and have a strategy for assessing them systematically. Yet, some doctors feel unprepared to identify and manage children with ASDs. Until recently, many medical schools offered little education in the area of ASDs, leaving physicians to train themselves about a complicated range of symptoms that currently affects more than one out of every 150 children.

“For busy pediatricians, with a concern that their patient may fall in the ‘grey area’ of autism spectrum disorders, or for parents who would like reassurance at a reduced cost, these ASD mini-assessments will provide a needed service in our area,” according to developmental specialist, Janel Astor. The 75-minute visit will include an evaluation summary and treatment plan. At the completion of the exam, the family will be informed about whether or not it appears

that their child has an ASD or other developmental delay, as well as if further evaluation is recommended. A developmental and behavioral specialist will help each family navigate possible treatment options available through local resources.

The Center for Developing Minds will continue to offer its more comprehensive ASD evaluations, for families who wish to collect as much information as possible about their developing child.

The Center for Developing Minds is a multidisciplinary pediatric clinic that provides care for children and young adults who struggle at home and at school with behavior issues, learning difficulties, attention problems, social skill deficits, autism spectrum disorders, developmental delays and psychological disorders. For more information about the services available at the Center for Developing Minds, please visit www.devmonds.com.

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