Autism Discovery Institute

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Rady Children's Hospital San Diego Autism Discovery Institute

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WHAT'S NEW

Social Skills Groups— The range of social skills groups offered at the Autism Discovery Institute continues to expand. The ADI also works closely with social skills groups at the Rady Children's Hospital Speech-Language Pathology Department to ensure each child is placed in a group that will best meet their social pragmatic goals. Our groups and social pairings promote social interaction skills, language pragmatics and behavioral development.

- individual goals are set for each child at the start of the group
- most groups include a parent-training component
- most groups incorporate typical peers

We are continually adding new groups, so please contact Linda at 858.966.1700 x6170 for more information!

MEET BONNIE CORBIN

Bonnie Corbin has been a part of the Autism Discovery Institute team nearly since its inception. Then known as the Children's Autism Intervention Center (CAIC), Bonnie held roles ranging from scheduling, assisting in the Toddler School with snack and nap times and taking care of the daily business transactions. In the continually expanding center, now called the Autism Discovery Institute, Bonnie is often the first person greeting our families, checking in patients and scheduling new patient visits. In addition, she is an integral part of making the daily operations at ADI run smoothly.

Bonnie's favorite part of the job is getting to interact with the families and children as they check in. We are grateful for Bonnie's 13 years of dedication to our children and their families!

TODAY'S TIP: Practicing Play— Provided by Angela Patricelli, M.A., BCBA

Play dates can be a fun and beneficial way for children to interact with peers and develop further social competence. Always strive to have a plan and structure the play date. For example: a short 15 minute activity, snack time, a second 15 minute activity, and then clean up. Always include reinforcing activities and adult facilitation to help your child use his or her communication. This will ensure your child feels successful during the interaction and will want to have another play date.

RESEARCH CORNER

Classroom Pivotal Response Teaching (CPRT) is a naturalistic behavioral intervention for students with autism in preschool through 3rd grade that is specifically designed for teachers. A team of researchers, teachers, and school administrators collaboratively developed the intervention based on the evidence-based practice, Pivotal Response Training (PRT). Focus groups of teachers reported on the difficulties of using PRT in the classroom, and possible adaptations to the difficult components were tested empirically by researchers. The team developed new data collection worksheets, training materials, and case examples to make CPRT maximally applicable to the needs of the classroom. The new program was recently pilot tested in 20 local classrooms. Preliminary results support the teachers' ability to use CPRT with fidelity within their daily occurring classroom activities as well as student gains in engagement and communication skills after receiving the intervention.

SUCCESS STORIES

Recently highlighted in the Kids' NewsDay insert of the Union Tribune newspaper, Anna Bowen's story of progress is an inspiration to many families. Diagnosed at Rady Children's Hospital with ASD at the age of 3, Anna's main areas of need were social interactions with peers and flexibility with change. Through PC-DBT (Parent-Child Developmental Behavioral Therapy) and social skills group interventions, Anna has made significant progress. "Anna has really blossomed in the last two years," says her mother. Not only has Anna met her goals, but she is also learning that play and engagement with peers can be fun. That is progress indeed!