



# *The Center for Autism*

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR LIFE





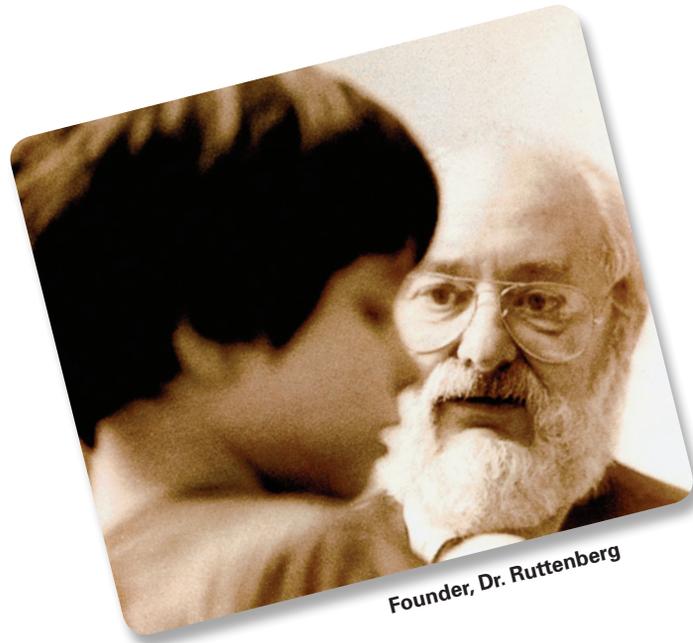
## OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. We continually strive to be the premier resource for autism services in the Philadelphia region by providing programs that meet the specific needs of each individual affected by autism.



## WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each individual differently and to varying degrees. It typically appears in early childhood, and is marked by impairment in communication and social interaction, as well as repetitive behaviors and/or restricted interests. While there is no known cure for autism, the Center for Autism's services are focused on the fact that autism is treatable.



Founder, Dr. Ruttenberg

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Center for Autism is a non-profit mental health clinic that has helped thousands of individuals and their families since it was founded by renowned child psychiatrist Dr. Bertram A. Ruttenberg in 1955. As the oldest specialized autism center in the nation, the Center recognizes that each individual with autism is different and as such, services are tailored to meet the needs of each person and family.

## TREATMENT PROGRAMS

The Center uses a comprehensive assessment as the foundation for each person's unique treatment plan, which is designed to reduce the symptoms of autism. Through treatment, the Center's experienced therapists teach individuals how to build relationships with significant people in their life, and learn skills that will help them succeed.

Families are viewed as full partners in the therapeutic process. The Center provides the support, education, treatment and resources needed for the family to appropriately advocate for the person with autism. The Center also coordinates with agencies that are significantly involved in the individual's clinical, educational or occupational program to ensure a comprehensive approach to treatment.

The following treatment programs are available:

**Pre-K (2 to 5 years old):** a daily, intensive treatment program aimed at improving communication, disruptive behaviors, self-regulation and social interaction. Children participate in predetermined structured activities that are based upon the goals defined in their individual treatment plan.

**Social Competency (6 to 15 years old):** an afternoon program designed to facilitate social skills and competencies in children and adolescents. The program addresses identifying and interpreting social cues, perspective taking, understanding emotions and feelings, self-esteem and working collaboratively with others.

**Individual Outpatient (all ages):** one-on-one and group therapy provided to individuals with autism and their family. Therapy sessions are typically scheduled weekly to build upon strengths and work on developmental needs.



**“EACH STAFF MEMBER  
SUPPORTED MY CHILD  
AND FAMILY IN THE BEST  
WAYS POSSIBLE.”**



## EVALUATION SERVICES

Early evaluation and diagnosis are vital to successful autism treatment. The Center for Autism offers diagnostic evaluation to people of all ages. Through the use of standardized diagnostic tools, observation of behaviors, and collection of a detailed medical and family history, the Center's experienced team of psychiatrists is able to determine an individual's diagnosis and make appropriate recommendations.

## PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION

The Center provides consultation services to professionals working with individuals with autism. Types of consultation include workshops, training and seminars on assessment, intervention techniques, behavioral observation, and the development of an individualized program. All consultation services are specialized to meet varying needs.

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

Donations are a valuable resource to the Center for Autism, and your investment in our programs and services will guarantee our future success. We are grateful to all who include us in their philanthropic vision, and encourage you to consider a gift today. For more information on how to support the Center, please visit [www.thecenterforautism.org/support](http://www.thecenterforautism.org/support).



**“YOU MAKE MY SON  
FEEL SPECIAL AND PROUD  
OF HIMSELF.”**



# The Center for Autism

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## **Headquarters**

3905 Ford Road, Suite 6  
Philadelphia, PA 19131-2824

## **Northeast Philadelphia**

2801 Grant Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19114-1007

Phone: 215.878.3400

Fax: 215.878.2082

[info@thecenterforautism.org](mailto:info@thecenterforautism.org)

[www.thecenterforautism.org](http://www.thecenterforautism.org)

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*Equal opportunity employer and service provider*