



**Joyce Elizabeth Mauk, M.D.**

*President/CEO/Medical Director and Rabbi Robert J. Schur Chair of the Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics Clinic*

Joyce Elizabeth Mauk graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1982. She served as faculty and attending physician at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for twelve years. In addition, Dr. Mauk served as Director of the Behavioral Rehabilitation Service Line at Children's Seashore House, a hospital serving children with developmental disabilities and chronic illnesses in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mauk is Specialty Boarded in Pediatrics and Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics. In these capacities she gained experience not only as a physician executive with emphasis on administrative responsibilities but also as a respected and published developmental pediatrician. She has done extensive research on autistic spectrum disorders, psychopharmacology and behavioral disorders.


Named President/CEO and Medical Director of the Child Study Center in July 1999, Dr. Mauk provides both clinical and administrative leadership to the Center, which offers diagnosis, treatment and understanding to those with developmental challenges. Her plans for the future are to focus on the Center's core competencies and expand its role as a service provider and training center and to expand services for children with Autism.

In 2006, Dr. Mauk was named as a Great Woman of Texas and in 2009 she was presented the Fort Worth Business Press Healthcare Hero award. Dr. Mauk is a member of Cook Children's Physician Network, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and is co-chairman of the Texas Pediatric Society's Committee on Mental Health.

*Diagnosis, treatment and understanding for those with developmental challenges*

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North Richland Hills, TX.  
April 04, 2009

State Representative,

I am writing to you today in support of the Child Study Center in Fort Worth and in support of the services that they provide for children with disabilities in the Autism Spectrum (ASD). Programs such as this provide hope and inspiration for parents in what is a constant and life long struggle for both the child and the parent. Our son is 7 years old and has a diagnosis of PDD/NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified) which falls in the Autism Spectrum. Each child with autism has unique needs and deficiencies. The people at the Child Study Center understand that and they are patient in identifying those areas and then creating a unique approach to dealing with those areas. The services that they provide are building blocks in helping to create a better life for all of these children involved.

When our son was accepted to the Child Study Center in January we were so excited and grateful because we had heard how beneficial the program was to children with ASD. He was accepted to attend one full day a week. However at the ARD meeting with the school and the district our request was denied to allow our son to attend this program without his absences being considered excused. We were told that the district did not see this as a medical treatment therefore his absences would not be excused. With the issue unresolved our son continued to attend his public school as well as the Child Study Center one day a week. This soon turned into a looming truancy issue with the district and we had to call another ARD meeting. Before this meeting we met with Dr. Ingvarsson and his assistant and explained to the situation we were facing. They went out of their way to write a letter to the district stating the importance of this program to child with ASD, and that it is in fact medical treatment for a medical condition which is what Autism is. Thankfully the letter made all the difference in our case and the district decided to allow him to attend the program.

I do know however that some families have not been as fortunate as us and have had to pull their children from this program due to lack of understanding on behalf of some of the other school districts. It is vitally important that the school districts understand the need and benefits of programs such as the one at the Child Study Center. The Child Study Center is also providing a workshop this week for parents to help show us techniques and make us more knowledgeable. This program has really been good for my son. He has made real improvements in some areas that with out the help of the Child Study Center, and the funding from DARS to help make the program possible, would have been much harder and taken more time for him to achieve. Please help make it possible for more children to attend and receive beneficial services such as these by removing one more obstacle from their path. I am attaching the letter written by the Child Study Center to the school district.

Thank You for Your Tme,

Ryan & Karen Peterson



Fort Worth, Tx  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Nathaniel Peterson is currently a patient in the Autism Services Program at the Child Study Center in Fort Worth, where he receives services one whole day each week. The purpose of this letter is to describe the general services provided in the program, and the particular services Nathaniel is receiving. The Child Study Center is a medical facility, and the Autism Services Program delivers state-of-the art, evidence-based intervention based on the science of Applied Behavior Analysis. The program is state-funded through a grant from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). To be eligible for services, children must be between the ages of three to eight, and have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Nathaniel has a diagnosis of PDD NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified), which falls under the rubric of ASD. Treatment is provided by trained tutors under the close supervision of three Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), one of whom holds a doctorate degree and teaches graduate level autism courses at the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas. Available evidence from the research literature suggests that children with ASD diagnoses are most likely to make adequate progress if they receive services like those provided in our program; that is, based on Applied Behavior Analysis, and supervised by BCBA's.

Nathaniel's current programs were selected based on a thorough curriculum assessment that is designed to identify broad and narrow skill deficits. For Nathaniel, we have selected programs that incorporate both narrow deficits (e.g., being unable to discriminate ankle vs. heel, although other body part discriminations are present) as well as areas where entire skill areas were absent during assessment, such as asking questions about items or recalling recent events.

Nathaniel's current programs include: *Listener Skills* (e.g., identifying objects and events): body parts, say vs. do discrimination, identifying features. *Speaker Skills* (e.g., naming objects/items/events): body parts, vehicles, clothing, furniture, tools, shapes, environmental sounds, environmental objects, "what is it" vs. "what color is it" discrimination. *Spontaneous Vocalizations*: sentence stems; *Intraverbals* (e.g., conversation skills, question-answering, verbal fill-in-the-blank tasks): rote counting, filling in item given function, requesting information about non-preferred items. *Negation*: "don't imitate action" vs. "do imitate action" discrimination; *Social Skills*: answering social questions; *Recall*: recent action; *Daily Living Skill*: shoe tying.

In our assessment, Nathaniel is making good progress in the Autism Services Program. We therefore strongly recommend that Nathaniel continue to receive these services that we deem medically necessary. We hope for cooperation and help from all involved parties in ensuring that Nathaniel can continue to receive these services.

Respectfully,

Joyce E. Mauk, M.D.  
President, CEO, Medical Director  
Child Study Center

Einar T. Ingvarsson, Ph.D.  
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)  
Autism Services, Child Study Center

