

Media/Research Updates:

UT Houston Researchers Study Diet In Autistic Children - Possible Link Between Gluten, Dairy Products Will Be Tested

08 Aug 2008

Researchers at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston have embarked on one of the first double-blind, clinical studies to determine whether gluten and dairy products play a role in autistic behavior as parents have anecdotally claimed.

"There's a lot of misinformation, so that's why this study is so important," said Fernando Navarro, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics at the medical school and lead investigator of the study. "Hundreds and hundreds of parents think this works but we need serious evidence." Autism is a complex neurobehavioral disorder linked to early abnormalities of brain development. According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, it affects up to six of every 1,000 children and is characterized by impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication and unusual, repetitive or severely limited activities and interests.

Researchers have discovered that there are differences in the central nervous system's anatomy and function in those diagnosed with autism, but the cause of the disorder is unknown. Experts theorize it may be a combination of genetics and environment.

"A lot of children with autism have gastrointestinal problems such as constipation and diarrhea. Whether these problems are related to brain development is open to question," said

Katherine Loveland, Ph.D., co-investigator and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, pediatrics and biomedical sciences at the health science center. "There are neurotransmitters and neuroreceptors in the gut that correspond with those in the brain. There are some scientific reasons to think that some kids may benefit from this diet."

For the double-blind study, funded in its initial phase by supplemental funds granted by the Department of Pediatrics, researchers will enroll 38 autistic children ages 3 to 9. They will look at the influence of gluten and milk proteins in the intestinal function. Gluten is a protein in wheat; casein and whey are proteins in milk. Casomorphin, a peptide in milk; and gliadomorphin, a peptide in gluten, are thought to be related to changes in behavior in these children. Children will be taken off gluten and dairy products before the four-week study and then half will be given gluten/milk powder and half will be given a placebo powder. Researchers will study intestinal permeability (leaky gut) through urine collection and behavior through psychometric testing.

Article URL: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/117664.php>



Shoelaces:

https://secure2.convio.net/asa/site/Ecommerce?store_id=2001&JServSessionIdr011=whqk58vcb3.app2

Autism Takes Center Stage at DNC

For the first time ever, the topic of autism was at the forefront of healthcare issues covered at the Democratic National Convention. Both Hillary and Bill Clinton highlighted autism in their speeches. The Clintons referred to parents they had met who were having problems obtaining appropriate healthcare coverage for their affected children. They both encouraged better healthcare for all families moving forward.

Quotes pulled from speeches:

Senator Hillary Clinton:

"I will always remember the single mom who had adopted two kids with autism. She didn't have any health insurance and she discovered she had cancer. But she greeted me with her bald head painted with my name on it and asked me to fight for health care for her and her children."

Former President Bill Clinton:

"I will never forget the parents of children with autism and other serious conditions who told me on the campaign trail that they couldn't afford health care and couldn't qualify their children for Medicaid unless they quit work and starved or got a divorce."

Senator Hillary Clinton's Speech, August 26

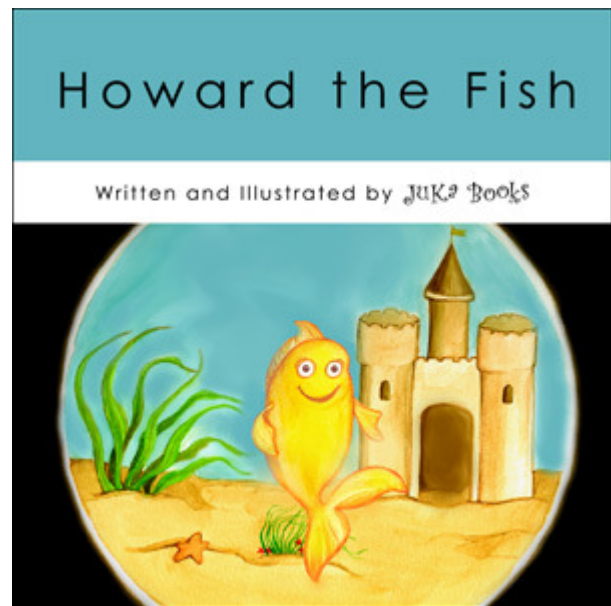
Bill Clinton's Speech, August 27

http://www.autismspeaks.org/inthenews/autism_dnc.php Speaks || June 6, 2008

Company updates: (w/ families)

- ✚ Keep hours consistent; only cancel if your child is sick!!!! All hours need to be made up if the therapist cancels! Set up your make up time when you call to cancel.
- ✚ If any shift is cancelled, you need to call the supervisor immediately.

- ✚ Remember that your Supervisor generally conducts calls from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and has 24 hours to respond to your call on a business day.
- ✚ If you complete all your hours for the month your name goes into a pool for a \$300.00 dollar gas card at the end of this year. This includes seniors and line staff. All senior staff will report line staff who has completed their hours.
- ✚ Hope everyone has a great start to the school year!



Howard is a lovable fish, who is content in his solitude. He is reluctant to engage in the world beyond his bowl, and prefers things to just stay as they are. One day everything changes. Howard learns that looking past the glass can be rewarding, and that change can be a good thing...a very good thing. Proceeds from the sale of Howard the Fish are being donated by [JuKa Books](http://www.juka.com) to NAA's Helping Hand program.

<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/proddetail.php?prod=HowardTheFish>