



June 2011 Newsletter

Company News

-The summer schedule is starting! Please double check your schedule to make sure you're going to the correct houses at the correct times.

-Even though the weather is turning warmer, please continue to wash your hands or use sanitizer when entering each house. If anyone would like hand sanitizer for a house, stop into the office for one to take.

-If you are interested in being on a list for families to call when in need of a babysitter please contact Char (cgeissman@hotmail.com).

-Anyone interested in extra hours this summer that wants to be a floater please let your Senior know! If you currently are a floater, please let your Senior know your updated availability.

-Don't forget to "Like" us on facebook!



Happy Birthday!

6/1 Rachel Hasler

6/9 Ashley Leber

6/9 Taylor Thomas

6/20 Lea Becker

6/25 Nadia Hernandez

Special Acknowledgements

Great work to John's team- Alex, Brynn, and Kristin for only missing one shift in an entire month!

Also, fantastic work to Nate's team- Natasha, Tom, and Sonia for only missing one shift in an entire month as well!

A special Congratulations to Angela and Dana who are the 2 newest Seniors!



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New Study Reveals Autism Prevalence in South Korea Estimated to be 2.6% or 1 in 38 Children

Research by U.S., Korean and Canadian Investigators Identifies Children Not Yet Diagnosed and Has Potential to Increase Autism Spectrum Disorder Prevalence Estimates Worldwide

New York, N.Y. (May 9, 2011) – In the first comprehensive study of autism prevalence using a total population sample, an international team of investigators from the U.S., South Korea, and Canada estimated the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in South Korea to be 2.64%, or approximately 1 in 38 children, and concluded that autism prevalence estimates worldwide may increase when this approach is used to identify children with ASD. “Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Total Population Sample,” published today online in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* reports on a study of all children (approximately 55,000) ages 7-12 years in a South Korean community, including those enrolled in special education and the disability registry, as well as all children enrolled in general education schools. Children were systematically assessed using multiple clinical evaluations.

The research found more than two-thirds of ASD cases in the mainstream school population, unrecognized and untreated. “These findings suggest that ASD is under-diagnosed and under-reported and that rigorous screening and comprehensive population studies may be necessary to produce accurate ASD prevalence estimates,” stated Autism Speaks Chief Science Officer Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D. “Autism Speaks funded this study to support better detection, assessment and services and to encourage international autism research.”

According to Dr. Kim, experts disagree about the causes and significance of reported increases in ASD, partly because of variations in diagnostic criteria and incomplete epidemiologic studies that have limited the establishment of actual population-based rates. “We were able to find more children with ASD and describe the full spectrum of ASD clinical characteristics,” said Dr. Kim. “Recent research reveals that part of the increase in reported ASD

prevalence appears attributable to factors such as increased public awareness and broadening of diagnostic criteria. This study suggests that better case finding may actually account for an even larger increase. While the current project did not investigate potential risk factors in this particular population, the study does set the stage for ongoing work to examine genetic and environmental factors contributing to the risk of ASD.”

This study is further evidence that autism transcends cultural, geographic, and ethnic boundaries and that autism is a major global public health concern, not limited to the Western world. To date, there is no evidence of differences in the way ASD is expressed in children around the world; however it is possible that cultural factors may impact diagnostic practices and prevalence estimates. As a result, the South Korean study took a comprehensive approach to mitigate potential cultural bias. According to Dr. Grinker, a cultural anthropologist at George Washington University, “Parent and teacher focus groups were conducted to identify local beliefs that might influence symptom reporting and to address stigma and misunderstandings related to ASD. Further, clinical diagnoses were established by Korean diagnosticians with extensive clinical and research experience in both the U.S. and Korea and were validated by North American experts.” “We know that the best outcomes for children with ASD come from the earliest possible diagnosis and intervention,” concluded Dr. Kim and her colleague Dr. Koh from the Korea Institute for Children's Social Development, “Goyang City, host of the Korea study, has courageously responded to these study findings by providing comprehensive assessment and intervention services for all first graders entering their school system. We hope that others will follow Goyang City's example so that any population based identification of children with ASD is accompanied by intervention services for those children and their families.”

To read more on this study visit
http://www.autismspeaks.org/press/south_korea_autism_prevalence_study.php