Research reveals early intervention as beneficial treatment for autism

COLLEGE STATION- Research conducted from 2003 to 2007 reveals that early intervention in the lives of autistic children helps lessen the symptoms of their disorder.

The sooner autism is detected and diagnosed, the better, even though there are no known causes or cures for the disorder. Early detection allows parents to begin early intervention.

Van Berckelaer-Onnes, lead researcher in a 2003 experiment, said, “Intervention designed to facilitate toy play will help to overcome the problems of weak central coherence, and thus to establish more normal perceptual and representational development, as well as the development of symbolic play.”

Showing autistic toddlers how to manipulate toys in new ways helps their cognitive development. They are able to observe something new, try it themselves, and make sense of it in their own unique ways.

Attending preschool also proved to be beneficial to autistic children in another experiment. Being around other children helps autistic children learn how to interact with others, and it improves their social skills.