The Autism Center at Hospital for Special Care (HSC) provides a variety of diagnostic, assessment, and therapy services for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

**Diagnostic Services**
The Center’s multidisciplinary approach includes psychology, developmental pediatrics, speech therapy, occupational therapy and child psychiatry.

**The goal of our center is to:**
- Understand a family’s concern about their child
- Determine if a child has an autism spectrum disorder, confirm a prior diagnosis or understand current challenges associated with an autism spectrum disorder
- Communicate findings and recommendations clearly and in partnership with families
- Provide ongoing monitoring of needs and coordination of care

An evaluation will be individualized for each child.

**All evaluations will include:**
- Detailed history and review of records
- Autism specific evaluation tools and questionnaires
- Medical Work-up

**Additional assessment may include:**
- Psycho-educational and developmental assessments
- Assessments of Adaptive functioning
- Observations of the child in other settings such as at home or school
- Behavior Analysis, performed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), including assessment of the function of, and alternatives to, behaviors that interfere with learning (including repetitive and stereotyped behaviors, aggression, and self injury), and the design of individualized programs to accelerate mastery of adaptive behaviors and functional academic skills (including joint attention, communication, self-help, behavior regulation, learning readiness, and others)

**Psychological and Academic Evaluations**
A full range of psychological and academic evaluations are provided at The Autism Center at HSC. From these evaluations, we can develop treatment plans and train caregivers, as requested by either the family or the school systems.

- Cognitive testing, including but not limited to WISC-IV, Stanford-Binet, Leiter International Performance Scale
- Targeted assessment of academic skills using standardized tools, curriculum-based measures and benchmark measures
- Psychological evaluation

**Occupational, Speech & Language, and Physical Therapies**
The Autism Center at HSC provides a full range of assessment and therapy options in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech & language therapies. These services are available as part of the overall multidisciplinary diagnostic and assessment protocols, or on an à la carte basis when requested by a parent, school system or physician. These services are provided at The Autism Center at HSC which offers a more supportive and less distracting environment than larger therapy venues.
Who May Be Served
We see patients up to the age of 21 years. Prior to the first interview, all medical and educational histories should be provided for review. The Autism Center at HSC accepts all insurances, as well as HUSKY/Medicaid.

Behavioral and Educational Planning and Consulting
The Autism Center at HSC clinicians are available to assist in the development of educational and behavioral plans, as well as the training of caregivers, teachers or others involved in the life of the child. These services may be contracted by either the parents or the school system.

Transition planning is most effective if everyone involved with the child is working from the same plan and presents a structured and consistent environment within which the child may thrive. Thus, planning for a new school environment, or even daycare program should include both the new caregivers and the parents.

The types of diagnostic tests and the behavioral plans will depend to a great degree on the child’s age, nature of his or her problems, and the environments in which he or she lives.

HSC, in all its initiatives, strives to design and provide customized and person-centered supports. The values and choices of the individual child and family form, where applicable, the basis for all planning.

John Molteni, PhD, BCBA-D
Dr. John Molteni is an Assistant Professor of Education, Director of the Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies and Program Director of Special Education at the University of Saint Joseph.

He received his PhD in Clinical Child Psychology from St. John’s University. Dr. Molteni is a licensed psychologist and a doctoral level Board Certified Behavior Analyst who has developed instructional and behavioral programs for children, adolescents and young adults with autism and related disabilities.

John J. Pelegano, MD
Dr. John Pelegano is the Chief of Pediatrics at Hospital for Special Care.

He has over 25 years of experience working with children on the autism spectrum, as well as, those with complex medical conditions.

Dr. Pelegano is an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He is board certified in both General Pediatrics and in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Patricia Aguayo, MD, MPH
Dr. Patricia Aguayo is the Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at The Autism Center at HSC, and Clinical Instructor at the Yale School of Medicine Child Study Center.

Dr. Aguayo is a Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. She received her medical degree from Universidad Anahuac, School of Medicine, in Mexico City, Mexico. Dr. Aguayo is responsible for seeing children and adolescents in need of medication management, psychiatric interventions and evaluation, and ongoing psychiatric therapy.

Elizabeth Sytulek, RN
Elizabeth (Liz) Sytulek is the Care Coordinator at The Autism Center at HSC. She is responsible for coordination and delivery of healthcare services to meet individual needs of the patient in order to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes and patient satisfaction.

In her role she serves as an educator, resource, and advocate for patients and their families to ensure a maximum level of self-management. Liz received her Bachelor of Science in Human Development & Family Relations at the University of Connecticut School of Family Studies. Her Associate of Science in Nursing from Saint Vincent’s College School of Nursing and she is a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator.

Accreditation/Recognition/Certification
For more information, please visit our website at: hfsc.org/about-us/accreditations

To receive updates on our programs, please email Sheldon Bustow, sbustow@hfsc.org.

Please follow Hospital for Special Care on Facebook and on Twitter @HospSpecialCare.