



Fill Your Gaps of the Spectrum

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Who

Who I worked with:

- Developmental Pediatrician
- Psychologist
- Various therapists
 - Occupational
 - Behavioral
 - Developmental
 - Speech
 - Physical

Who we are trying to reach:

- Children with developmental delays
- Parents & siblings of affected children

What

What am I involved in at the PDC:

- Attend medical diagnostic evaluations where a developmental pediatrician and various therapists assess a child's development using standardized assessment tools.
- Plan and facilitate group therapy sessions alongside a behavioral therapist to help children with their social skill development.
- Attended didactic seminars and parent training sessions to gather and expand my unbound education.
- Create different kinds of visual supports for all staff members to aid in the patients' treatment session.

What am I contributing to my community based on my experiences:

- I am collecting information, resources, and guidance that I can share with families struggling to comprehend what it means to have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- I will reach these families by the means of a podcast.
- My podcast will be accessible to both English and Spanish speaking families to address some of the disparities that the Latinx population faces when seeking healthcare.

Where

Pediatric Developmental Center (PDC) at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

- An outpatient diagnostic and treatment center for children with special needs in the Chicago land area.
- Services they offer include:
 - Medical diagnostic and intervention services
 - Comprehensive treatment for children with autism
 - Behavior psychology services
 - Pediatric rehabilitation services
 - Family and sibling support

Why

Why focus on children with Autism:

- Cases of autism have been increasing due to an increase of awareness and improvements in the screening process.
- Despite an increase in awareness, there is still a lack of understanding and attention of autism by primary healthcare teams.
- The waiting period for diagnostic and therapy appointments are lengthy because of a shortage of developmental and behavioral pediatricians.
- Little to no education on the experiences and realities of those who are neurodivergent.

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