



**CONTACT:**

Jason Scheidt  
Chief Marketing Officer  
Autism Center for Children  
[jrs@autismcenterga.com](mailto:jrs@autismcenterga.com)  
678-996-4998

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Autism Center for Children Partners with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Families First Events**

***Your Georgia Autism Center is Co-Presenting a Series of Free Workshops for Parents of Young Children  
Newly Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)***

Woodstock, GA – July 18, 2017 – Autism Center for Children, a practice advancing early diagnosis and treatment of autism in toddlers, today announced it is partnering with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center’s Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) to deliver its Families First Program, a series of free workshops intended for parents of young children (ages 2-5) newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. These events will be live-streamed from Vanderbilt’s main campus in Nashville, Tennessee to Woodstock, Georgia, where they will be locally facilitated by Dr. Julie Crittendon and the expert staff at the Autism Center for Children. The Families First workshops will occur on Saturday mornings, typically one per month. The first live-streamed event for Woodstock will be presented on Saturday, August 5, 2017.

The primary goal of Families First is to equip parents and caregivers with hands on, practical tools to support their child at home and in the community based in the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). This program is intended to be a place to start for families to set goals and apply strategies related to the topics presented. This information is provided in a structure where parents and caregivers have an opportunity to meet other parents of children with ASD with similar questions or concerns.

“We are very proud to partner with Vanderbilt TRIAD to bring these workshops to Georgia families,” declares Dr. Crittendon. “As always, it is our mission to provide autism services, resources and treatments that help deliver the most immediate, profound and lasting improvements in quality of life. This series of workshops helps better equip parents with the tools and information they most need after a recent diagnosis. You don’t have to be a client of the Autism Center for Children, and perhaps best of all, these workshops are free.”



The series of workshops are structured in a way where each topic can stand alone or families can attend multiple topics if they choose. During the workshops, information is presented to attendees and families are placed into small groups where they collaboratively apply the strategies presented. Families are also given time to plan for their child and are provided with resources to bring home, such as visual supports and tip sheets, in order to more easily apply the ideas introduced during the workshop.

The initial Fall 2017 schedule of workshop topics is as follows:

- Saturday, August 5, 2017: Teaching Safety Skills
- Saturday, September 16, 2017: Developing Communication Skills
- Saturday, October 7, 2017: Beginning Toilet Training
- Saturday, December 2, 2017: Out and About: Preparing for Community Routines

For more information on the Autism Center for Children or for these events, visit [www.AutismCenterGA.com](http://www.AutismCenterGA.com), follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AutismCenterGA](https://www.facebook.com/AutismCenterGA) and Twitter [@AutismAtlanta](https://twitter.com/AutismAtlanta), or call 678-996-4998. Specific workshop times and locations will be announced online shortly.

### **About Vanderbilt TRIAD**

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) is dedicated to improving assessment and treatment services for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families while advancing knowledge and training. Since its inception and through its evolution, TRIAD has provided services to thousands of children and families throughout Tennessee and beyond. TRIAD programs address community needs for cutting-edge information, high-quality support, and innovative interventions for children with autism spectrum disorders. TRIAD's specialized outreach staff provide training and direct consultation in state-of-the-art behavioral and educational assessment and intervention strategies in schools throughout the region.

### **About the Autism Center for Children**

For parents concerned about their toddler's social communication development, the Autism Center for Children provides accurate identification and treatment of autism – at the earliest possible signs of detection – for the most immediate, profound and lasting improvement in their quality of life. Dr. Crittendon is a licensed clinical psychologist, Ph.D., BCBA-D, and the head of the Autism Center for Children. Her practice is a culmination of her work at Ole Miss, Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and with the Autism Partnership in California. The Autism Center for Children is proud to offer an increasing range of insurance coverage options for assessment and treatment of autism, and serves families in Atlanta and



North Georgia from its main office in Woodstock, GA, conveniently located just off I-575 North at Exit 7 (Highway 92).

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