



## PLAY Project Media Kit

**The PLAY Project is an early intervention program for children with autism.**

PLAY Project Organization, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the headquarters for the organization that offers high-quality training and development services and products related to PLAY Project intervention and autism-related topics to professionals and parents.

### CONTACTS

#### GET YOUR COPY

The NEW research paper detailing the effectiveness of the PLAY Project autism intervention is now available in the [\*Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics\*](#).

#### PRESS CONTACT

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### MEET RICHARD “Dr. Rick” SOLOMON, MD



Richard Solomon, MD, is board certified in Pediatrics and Developmental /Behavioral Pediatrics. His experience treating and diagnosing children with autism spans 25 years. With a reputation as the "fun" doctor, Rick is known for his ability to make children smile and laugh, calming their fears and building trust. His overall approach is influenced by his work alongside autism and child development visionaries T. Berry Brazelton, Stanley Greenspan MD, Mr. Fred Rogers, and Ivar Lovaas, PhD . His career includes fellowships and faculty positions in Pediatrics, editorial board appointments with medical

journals, and numerous volunteer positions with nonprofit boards and state-appointed committees. Today, he has an active developmental and behavioral pediatrics practice, serves as a consulting Medical Director to two health systems, leads the PLAY Project International Organization, and is an active facilitator of PLAY Project autism early intervention training. In 2001, Dr. Solomon created The PLAY Project in response to the need for evidenced-based autism intervention options and from 2009-2012 was the principle investigator of one of the largest intervention research study in the U.S. with young children with ASD, with the results now published in the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. Rick is a devoted family man, married for 42 years with two children and three (with one on the way!) grandchildren. He makes his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



## FOR THE MEDIA

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An in-demand speaker, Dr. Rick Solomon has taught thousands of parents and professionals to improve their interactions with children with autism. He has authored or co-authored 50+ research reports and book chapters. He has also been quoted in more than 100 newspapers and magazines and hosted a weekly, “Ask Dr. Rick,” television program on a Pittsburgh broadcast affiliate

### Story Ideas for Dr. Rick

**The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Kindergarteners:** How to know if your child is ready for kindergarten and the skills children with autism need to be in order to be kindergarten-ready.

**Transitions Tips and Tricks for the Child with Autism:** Whether it is Back to School time, the holiday season, summer vacation, a family move, or other disruptions in the routine, Dr. Rick has the practical advice to help children with autism (and their parents!) cope with the changes.

**How acceptance leads to success:** Dr. Rick discusses the ways parents can accept their child and how this acceptance helps the child with autism (or other developmental disabilities) reach their full potential.

**Why do they do that?** Dr. Rick explains the common behaviors of children with autism.

**Grief and loss for the child with disabilities:** The diagnosis of autism or other disabilities is heartbreaking for families. Dr. Rick provides supportive advice and “gives permission” for parents to grieve on their journey to acceptance.

**Talking to friends and family about your child’s autism:** One of the top questions that parents ask Dr. Rick is, “We’re getting ready for a family event. How do I explain my child’s autism to my relatives?” Dr. Rick empowers parents to prepare their child for the event and confidently handle questions and possible judgment from relatives and strangers.

**He will also speak about the following topics:**

- Born to Play: the importance of fun in children’s learning, especially those on the autism spectrum
- Autism and Early Intervention: the research and practice behind why early intervention is essential to help children with autism reach their full potential
- Autism and sibling relationships
- Teaching PLAY: how to bring fun and engagement into the school setting for children with autism



## ABOUT THE LATEST RESEARCH

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National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) funded study: "The PLAY Project Home Consultation Intervention Program for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Randomized Controlled Trial" (2010-2013)

Now published in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*  
October 2014 - Volume 35 - Issue 8 - p 475-485

This three-year multi-site randomized controlled trial showed improvements in both parent-child interaction and autism symptomatology. The study focused on the impact of PLAY Project autism intervention: a parent-mediated play and relationship focused program.

**Primary Investigator:** Richard Solomon, MD with research-design guidance from Michigan State University.

**Randomized Controlled Trial:** Drawing participants from five Easter Seals autism service locations, this clinical trial compares the outcomes of 120 children with autism, making it one of the largest studies of its kind. The study compares the outcomes of 60 children who participate in The PLAY Project with the outcomes of 60 children who receive standard, community interventions. Before and after the 12-month intervention, each child is assessed with a battery of tests to measure developmental level, speech and language, sensory-motor profile, and social skills.

### Reasons for this study:

- The number of children identified with ASDs is increasing.
- There is a national shortage of personnel trained in intensive approaches as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) (Lord et al, 2001).
- Most states do not typically provide broad support for intensive interventions, and the unmet national need is enormous.
- Preliminary clinical evidence demonstrates that this parent mediated model is effective.
- Early dissemination of the model into community agencies, schools and hospitals has also been successfully accomplished.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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### Significant improvements in:

- caregiver/parent and child interaction
- social interaction of children with autism
- social-emotional development of children with autism
- autism symptomatology

### Secondary outcomes:

- Improved parent stress and depression; and
- PLAY Project consultant fidelity.