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Child care service opens at Health Campus of Care

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Child care is now closer to home. This past Monday, the City officially unveiled a new shared-space facility for children with special needs.

On the third floor of the Vaughan Health Campus of Care facility located at 9401 Jane St., the Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York and Children's Intervention Learning and Development (CHILD) will both offer child health care programs.

The new state-of-the-art treatment centre will provide Vaughan residents with access to services for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Among the disorders assessed and supported at the centre are Autism, developmental disabilities, Down Syndrome, seizure disorder and various genetic and chromosomal disorders.

"This space is meant to be a space that any provider of service to children with (complex) problems can use," said Sara Koke, clinical director of the Children's Treatment Network.

Included at the Vaughan facility is a fully equipped therapy gym, five treatment and observation rooms for occupational and speech therapy, access to specialized therapy equipment, an education and parent meeting room and video-conferencing capabilities.

Therapists from various agencies are available to contact with families interested in using the facility, from there they determine which services are necessary for the child in need and then meet the family at the Vaughan Health Campus of Care facility.

"It's meant to be a one-stop phone call for families to help them get the services that they need," said Koke. "We'll make sure that they're hooked up to the right service."

Diagnostic processes and a diagnostic pediatrician are also available for those with complicated, undiagnosed disorders.

The Vaughan centre is one of 10 learning and development service sites located in York Region and Simcoe County.

"We have lots of parents here that spend 15 to 40 hours a week with their children and then have to travel to Markham to do an appointment with a speech pathologist or to Woodbridge for early intervention and often times these agencies are only open nine to five," said Angie Stallone, chief administration director with CHILD, of the benefits of the new treatment centre. "Often therapists work on a part-time basis so it's difficult for parents to get to these multiple locations on a weekly basis. We're proud to be here because we have the opportunity to insure parents get multiple services under one roof."

CHILD is a service provider of intensive one-on-one therapy for children with known developmental disorders. Patients can be self-referred, but CHILD also receives referrals from pediatricians.

"Our philosophy is to have a multi-disciplinary approach that is unique from other places," said Stallone.

CHILD, established in 1993, is a private agency that features a dynamic treatment intervention philosophy and cutting edge service delivery. Parents and professionals can access services for children by calling



Local children had the opportunity to run and play in the new state-of-the-art child treatment centre at the Vaughan Health Campus of Care. The facility officially opened this past Monday.

photo by Michael McClymont

905-417-3111.

The Children's Treatment Network is a new not-for-profit service that provides a single plan of care for children and youth from birth to age 19. Services provided by the Network include physiotherapy, inclusive recreation, psychology, nursing, feeding and swallowing, seating and mobility

and audiology. The Network is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and can be accessed by calling 1-866-377-0286.

The facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.