

HEALTH REPORT

VOLUME 12

ISSUE 27

AUTISTIC CHILD DEVELOPS SKILLS, HAS IMPROVED LIFE WITH CHIROPRACTIC

The growing statistics on the number of autistic children in our society today are quite alarming. Some reports have it that autism is now occurring in an estimated 1 in 150 births in the United States.

At the same time, more and more cases where children diagnosed with autism who are being helped by Chiropractic are continuing to be recorded. The study here of a 3-year-old child who was helped by Chiropractic intervention is another such important case as reported by the *Journal of Vertebral Subluxation Research*.

This child had been diagnosed with autism about 1 year prior to her first visit to a chiropractor. At the time of her examination, she had social interaction skills that were below the norm for a child her age. She also had learning difficulties, and her language skills consisted only of communicating by screaming and outbursts of temper tantrums. She was not able to communicate through speech that would be normal for her age.

The child's mother was able to offer some information regarding the onset of the child's autism. It was her observation that the symptoms were noticeable following the girl's first set of vaccinations when she had reactions that were different than before and after she had slept for 24 hours.

Testing of the child by her chiropractor included a full evaluation of her spine and her muscle function. It was decided that Chiropractic adjustment should focus on subluxations (partial dislocations of the vertebrae) in her spine and a protocol of gentle interventions were begun.

In all, the child had 28 Chiropractic visits spread over a 10 week period. Initially, the girl was very apprehensive about her adjustments and didn't like to lie down on the chiropractor's table. However, this fear was all but gone by her 5th visit and she was soon lying on the table by herself and was happy to take hold of her Chiropractor's hand.

During her 10th visit, her mother said that the child began to verbalize for the first time. Later in the week, she even started to laugh. This improvement continued on throughout the first month of care when the child began to show expressions of joy and spontaneity while being less hyperactive. Meanwhile, her posture was improving, too.

"This case report illustrates how an improvement respectively in both subjective and objective behavioral patterns and nerve system symmetry follow Chiropractic care in a child with autism," said the authors of the study. And, with the growing evidence that Chiropractic can benefit children with autism, it only makes sense that every child who shows symptoms of the disorder should be examined by a chiropractor to determine if help is possible.