

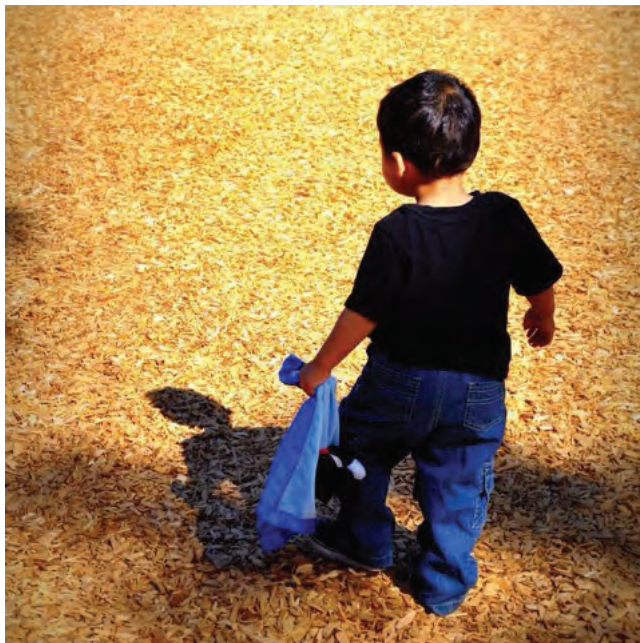
## *What is a typical PRT therapy session like?*

Each program is tailored to meet the goals and needs of the individual learner and his or her school and home routines. A session typically involves six segments during which language, play and social skills are targeted with both structured and unstructured interactions. As the child progresses, the focus of each session changes to accommodate more advanced goals and needs.

## *What is the intensity of a PRT program?*

PRT programs usually involve 25 or more hours per week. Everyone involved in the child's life is encouraged to use PRT methods consistently in every part of his or her life. PRT has been described as a lifestyle adopted by the affected family.

**For more information on PRT, visit the UCSB Koegel Autism Center website at [Education.UCSB.edu/autism](http://Education.UCSB.edu/autism) or the UCSD Autism Research Program website at [psy3.ucsd.edu/~autism/prttraining.html](http://psy3.ucsd.edu/~autism/prttraining.html).**



## What is the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)?

**The Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)** is a comprehensive behavioral early intervention approach for children with autism, ages 12 to 48 months. The program encompasses a developmental curriculum that defines the skills to be taught at any given time and a set of teaching procedures used to deliver this content. It is not tied to a specific delivery setting, but can be delivered by therapy teams and/or parents in group programs or individual therapy sessions in either a clinic setting or the child's home.

Psychologists Sally Rogers, Ph.D., and Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D., developed the Early Start Denver Model as an early-age extension of the Denver Model, which Rogers and colleagues developed and refined. This early intervention program integrates a relationship-focused developmental model with the well-validated teaching practices of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Its core features include the following:

***Naturalistic applied behavioral analytic strategies***

***Sensitive to normal developmental sequence***

***Deep parental involvement***

***Focus on interpersonal exchange and positive affect***

***Shared engagement with joint activities***

***Language and communication taught inside a positive, affect-based relationship***

The Early Start Denver Model is the only comprehensive early intervention model that has been validated in a randomized clinical trial for use with children with autism as young as 18 months of age. It has been found to be effective for children with autism across a wide range of learning styles and abilities.