

A CHILD
almost LIKE
THE OTHERS
...but who seems DIFFERENT to you

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PDDs?
PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS
Québec

He seems different because he...

- does not seek out the company of other children or adults
- does not ask for help when he needs it
- shows a delay or other language difficulties
- does not always seem to understand verbal instructions or actions
- has difficulty establishing visual contact
- does not always answer when his name is called
- doesn't play "make-believe" games,
(playing with dolls, imitating dad or mom)
- laughs or cries for no apparent reason
- is unaware of danger
- reacts strongly to changes
- is too sensitive or not sensitive enough to noises, touch, smells and tastes
- constantly repeats an action for an extended period
- does not try to share his experiences, pleasures or interests with others

Despite more sophisticated language and a good capacity for learning, the child:

- has difficulty initiating or carrying on a conversation
- uses more sophisticated language or an accent that surprises you
- has difficulty making friends
- develops an exaggerated interest in one subject to the detriment of other subjects
- has difficulty interpreting others' needs and interests

**IT COULD BE A PDD
PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER**

One problem: five diagnoses

(according to the DSM-IV revised in 1994)

- Autism
- Rett's syndrome*
- Childhood disintegrative disorder*
- Asperger's syndrome
- Not otherwise specified PDD

* These two diagnoses may eventually not be considered as belonging to the family of PDDs, due to their different origins and manifestations.

What are PDDs?

PDDs may be the result of a neurobiochemical disorder. They generally appear during the first three years of childhood. They affect more boys than girls, regardless of social environment or ethnic origin.

Characteristics:

- Difficulty communicating
(understanding and use of language, imagination)
- Difficulty in reciprocal social interactions and social integration
- Possible presence of repetitive activities and behaviours (manias, limited interests)

A problem with different faces

PDDs manifest differently from one individual to another. These variations sometimes make diagnosis difficult. The presence or absence of related disorders such as intellectual or physical impairment, epilepsy or behavioural disorders can also modify their manifestations.

Referral to or consultation with a health professional

It is now known that screening at a young age and early specialized intensive intervention adapted to the needs of a child with a PDD can significantly improve his development. Refer him to a specialist or consult a health professional.

Worried parents: What can you do?

As soon as you start to be concerned, consult a family doctor, a pediatrician or your CLSC. This first meeting can lead to a consultation with a specialist (occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, psychologist, psycho-educator) who will refer your child to a developmental assessment clinic if a PDD seems likely. These clinics have teams composed of a doctor and different health professionals specialized in assessing developmental disorders. Their shared observations will enable them to evaluate whether your child is suffering from a PDD or not.

Services appropriate to the child's needs

When a diagnosis of PDD is confirmed, intensive early intervention programs, specialized recognized educational methods, or other methods and treatments will be proposed. The goal of these services is to have the child become as autonomous as possible in order to promote his social integration.

Family support services are also offered by CLSCs and community organizations.

Resources available in Laval

Centre de santé et des services sociaux

Obtain information from your CLSC (local community service centre)

Detection, orientation, evaluation and family support services (psychosocial, respite, allocations and other) offered at a CLSC or hospital.

Mille-Îles (450) 661-2572

Marigot (450) 668-1803

Ruisseau Papineau (450) 687-5690

Sainte-Rose (450) 622-5110

Centre de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle (Rehabilitation centre – Intellectual impairment)

Eligible after confirmation of diagnosis and with professional referral only.

Adaptation, rehabilitation and social integration services for people with an intellectual impairment or a pervasive developmental disorder.

CRDI Normand Laramée, Laval (450) 972-2099, ext. 2042

Évaluation Enfants 0-7 ans (Evaluation of children 0-7 years of age)

CHARL (Centre hospitalier ambulatoire régional de Laval)

1515, boul. Chomedey, Laval (Québec) H7H 3Y7

Tel.: (450) 978-8300 / Fax: (450) 978-2935

Société de l'autisme et des TED de Laval (Autism and PDD society)
(450) 663-5551 www.autismelaval.org

Information sur les milieux de garde (Information on daycare centres)
City of Laval
(450) 662-7000, ext. 1578

Regroupement des CPE de Laval (Daycare centre organization)
(450) 975-8777

Association des services de garde en milieu scolaire (Association of daycare centres in a school environment)
Projet intégration sociale des enfants handicapés en milieu scolaire 1 (Social integration project for disabled children in a school environment) (450) 646-2714

Promotion pour l'intégration (Promotion for integration)
Trait d'union
1-800-840-LINK
(Anglophone)