



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SMART Pediatric Therapy Designated First Certified Autism Center in Arizona**

GOODYEAR, AZ (August 2, 2016) – SMART Pediatric Therapy is undergoing training to earn its certification of Autism care from the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). As a Certified Autism Center, at least 80% of the SMART Pediatric Therapy staff is completing a rigorous training process that will enhance occupational therapy evaluation and treatment for those who have autism.

SMART (Sensory Motor and Regulatory Treatment) is the first clinic in Arizona to become a Certified Autism Clinic (CAC). Since current studies indicate that up to 96% of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) demonstrate sensory difficulties, it is imperative to address these underlying issues.

"At SMART, we address these foundational challenges that lead to dysfunction in emotional regulation, social interaction, participation in activities at home and at school, and gross and fine motor coordination," said Susan Gregg, OTR/L and founder/owner of SMART Pediatric Therapy.

IBCCES Certified Autism Centers must have 14 continuing education hours in Autism training, pass a comprehensive autism competency exam and meet IBCCES Board approval.

"I strongly believe that creating professional partnerships that help care for those with Autism and other sensory processing disorders improves the quality of care," Myron Pincomb, IBCCES Board Chairman, said. "Disparities in patient-provider communication lower patient self-efficacy and usage of preventive services. This training can help eliminate that."

IBCCES trains and certifies professionals who work in therapy centers, schools and specialized-service centers for greater autism awareness in 10 Areas of Autism Competency. On-site and online interactive training affords centers and schools knowledge and strategies for boosting access and exceeding physical, occupational, and educational goals for children and adults on the autism spectrum.

IBCCES was formed in 2001 and is the leading credentialing organization for professionals in the field of Autism. IBCCES currently offers the Certified Autism Specialist®, Autism Certificate and the Certified Autism Center designations. IBCCES additionally released the Advanced Autism Certifications, which focus on ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Therapy. Autism, commonly known as ASD, is a neurodevelopmental disorder with a wide range of symptoms and impairment

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levels. According to a 2010 study conducted by the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 68 children in the US have been diagnosed with ASD. It is five times more common among boys than girls.

For more information regarding SMART Pediatric Therapy, please contact Susan Gregg at [623-399-6159](tel:623-399-6159), visit [www.smartpediatrictherapy.com](http://www.smartpediatrictherapy.com) to view parent video testimonials. For more information regarding IBCCES or the Certified Autism Center program, contact Kristin Chambers at [877-717-6543](tel:877-717-6543).

### **About IBCCES**

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards ([IBCCES](http://www.ibcces.org)) was established in 2001 to meet the training and credentialing needs of professionals who work with individuals with special needs. IBCCES has since expanded into over 40 different countries with training centers and members across the globe.

Our Certified Autism Specialist, Board Certified Cognitive Specialist, and Certified Autism Center credentials were established with the highest standards in the industry. As a result, our programs have become the benchmark for those who work with cognitive disorders around the globe.

IBCCES created and hosts the annual International Symposium on Cognitive Research & Disorders. This global event brings together top neurologists, education leaders, and healthcare experts with a focus on research, innovation and collaboration.

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### **About SMART Pediatric Therapy**

SMART Pediatric Therapy is a sensory-based outpatient clinic that offers occupational therapy evaluation and treatment in a sensory-rich environment primarily for children ages 0-18. SMART specializes in SPD (sensory processing disorder), with the goal to help children detect, regulate, interpret, and execute appropriate motor and behavioral responses to sensations. SMART takes a holistic approach, focusing on the whole child (and whole family) and addresses the foundational, underlying issues that lead to dysfunction in gross and fine motor skills, social interactions, handwriting, sensory-motor skills, visual-motor integration, visual processing and perception, auditory processing, self-care and school/academic challenges. Their goal is to enable the child to experience success at his/her "occupation" of playing with friends, learning at school, completing daily routines (eating, dressing, sleeping, etc.) and enjoying typical family life.

One-on-one individualized therapy is tailored to each child's unique strengths, deficits, neurological functioning and foundational skills, with an emphasis on parent involvement and education.

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