

INTENSIVE OUPATIENT PROGRAM

Thompson Foundation
FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENT

Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment
University of Missouri

When families need support, we're here.

For children with autism or intellectual disabilities who experience severe behavioral challenges, traditional outpatient therapy may not provide the intensity of support they need. When these challenges interfere with daily life, learning, safety and participation in the community, families can face difficult and limited options.



A NEW LEVEL OF CARE. A NEW PATH FORWARD.

Launched in 2026, the Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment's Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) is the first program of its kind in Missouri. It fills a critical gap between traditional outpatient care and inpatient hospitalization, offering a more intensive path toward stability, skill development and greater independence.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE. INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT.

The IOP serves children and adolescents ages 3–19 through a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach that includes:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Medical and psychiatric consultation
- Social work and case management
- Caregiver coaching and support

Treatment is tailored to each patient's needs and focuses on communication, flexibility, daily living skills, classroom readiness and safer participation in everyday activities. The team also collaborates with families, schools and community providers to support progress beyond the clinic.

Specially designed therapy spaces provide a safe, structured environment for children with complex behavioral needs.

Real progress. Meaningful change.

The program's first patient completed treatment within 16 weeks. During the intervention:

16 WEEKS

93%
increase in effective communication of needs

100%
task completion, up from 0%

0
instances of aggression during sessions by the end of the treatment

FULL
participation in speech-language and occupational therapy sessions without disruptive behavior

These gains supported greater participation in therapy, daily routines and community activities.

Help more families move forward.

By providing intensive, specialized treatment before a crisis escalates, the IOP can help prevent prolonged hospital stays, reduce unnecessary emergency interventions, and minimize potentially inappropriate interactions with local law enforcement—ensuring children receive compassionate, clinically appropriate care in a supportive environment.

> *"For the first time, he's happy to go. He feels safe, he feels understood, and I can see how much he's growing; not just in skills, but in trust."* — MOTHER OF AN IOP PATIENT

Philanthropic support can help sustain specialized staffing, strengthen caregiver resources, expand treatment capacity and make this intensive model of care available to more families.



EXTRAORDINARY TOGETHER

Together with the Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment, we are making a difference in the lives of people impacted by autism and neurodevelopmental diagnoses.

Your investment can help children build skills, families find hope, and communities become safer and more accessible for everyone.

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