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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**AUTISM TREATMENT CENTER ANNOUNCES
2009 SUMMER PROGRAM**

“Conditioned Caterpillars” Provides a Group-Learning Environment for Autistic Children

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN (March 10, 2009) – The Early Intervention Center announced “Conditioned Caterpillars Program,” an eight-week course designed to help children with autism make the transition from one-on-one individualized environments to a formal school support system. Lasting from June 15 to Aug. 14, 2009, the Caterpillars’ small group setting helps children improve academic, social and listening skills through one of two daily sessions:

The **morning session** takes place from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. and is designed for children who will be attending pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and/or elementary school. They may have strong verbal skills, the ability to focus for an extended period of time and the ability to make these transitions without full one-on-one support.

The **afternoon session** is from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. It’s for children who may or may not be attending traditional school classes in the fall and/or need more individual support. However, these children would still benefit from a group environment, and the afternoon session is designed to help them develop learning skills, appropriate behaviors and increased independence.

Although the majority of the day is spent in groups, these groups are small enough to allow individualized attention for children who require it. For every group of six children, there are at least two experienced technicians, each with extensive Applied Behavior Analysis training and a four-year degree in psychology or a psychology-related field.

THE EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER – headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, was created in 2000 as part of the Autistic Children’s Treatment (ACT) Network, which provides research, education, service and information for parents of children with autism. For more information, please contact Jessica Rogers at (248) 559-5820 or jrogers@actnetwork.org, or visit www.actnetwork.org.

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