

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Whitman to Sign Autism Research Bill; Distribute Toys to Refugee Children at Fort Dix**

Gov. Christie Whitman tomorrow will visit the Princeton Child Development Institute in Princeton, where she will sign a bill to fund autism research in New Jersey.

Later in the day, the Governor and Toys `R Us mascot Geoffrey will distribute toys to Kosovo children staying at Fort Dix. Paramus-based Toys `R Us donated 1,000 teddy bears to the refugee children.

The Governor will sign S-1406, which appropriates \$1.5 million to create the "Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism."

Autism is a disorder which causes severe impairments in language and communication which generally manifests in young children sometime during the first two years of life. It is estimated that one in 500 children born in New Jersey will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

The Princeton Child Development Institute is a private, non- profit organization which provides education and professional training to children and young adults with autism, as well as services to parents and siblings of autistic children.