Making eye contact, taking turns and building friendships are all particularly challenging for children with autism. Yet Jayden Hannon is no wallflower.

The 3-year-old doesn’t struggle in a room full of people, unlike some peers diagnosed with the disorder. He can articulate needs and provide social cues, and his problem-solving skills are above average.

Jayden’s parents credit his inspiring progress to a novel early behavioral intervention program co-developed at the UC Davis MIND Institute. The therapy reduces autism symptoms, increases IQs and helps to normalize brain function, and ranked among the top medical breakthroughs of 2012.

It’s one of many significant discoveries at the MIND Institute, where leaders in fields from psychology to molecular biology work together to help the one in 20 Americans living with neurodevelopmental conditions like autism and ADHD.

To learn more about Jayden’s story and how to support northern California’s one center of excellence for developmental disabilities, visit mindinstitute.ucdavis.edu

One team. One choice. One UC Davis.