



Centre de
Réadaptation
Marie-Enfant

CHU Sainte-Justine



Université
de Montréal

Communiqué d'information

Providing the Best and More. Together for Children and Their Families. A Slogan That Is Celebrating Its 70th Anniversary

1937 to the 1970s

The Rehabilitation Centre Marie-Enfant's history began on July 26, 1937 with the creation of the Montreal BCG Clinic. Named after the Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine discovered by Dr. Armand Frappier, the Clinic kept children, who were infected with tuberculosis, in isolation as a means to counter its contagiousness.

Under the supervision of founder Simone David-Raymond, the Clinic gradually developed into a pediatric nursery. It provided a complete range of services that included radiology, pediatric care and social services. Over time, the Clinic began providing long-term care to convalescing children. It also took in children with cerebral motor deficits and progressive conditions such as neuromuscular diseases and cystic fibrosis.

The BCG Clinic Becomes the Marie-Enfant Hospital

Converted into a hospital in 1961, the Marie-Enfant Hospital gained recognition for its specialized pediatric care and rehabilitation services for children with "handicaps". A physical medicine program was created and new specialists joined the medical team of pediatricians and pediatric nurses. The rehabilitation unit was beginning to experience growth. The addition of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other medical specialists such as orthopedists further confirmed the establishment's direction. In the 1970s, specialized services were introduced to the Victor-Doré, Joseph-Charbonneau and Jean-Piaget schools to meet the children's educational and social integration needs.

The 1980s to Present

Renowned for Its Expertise in Rehabilitation

In 1982, the Marie-Enfant Hospital's unique mandate in "rehabilitation care for handicapped children" was confirmed. The Hospital was also given a cross-regional mandate, which consisted of implementing pediatric rehabilitation services across Quebec. Innovation was always at the forefront. The technical aids team developed complex tools to meet the needs of clients of both the Hospital and regional rehabilitation centres. Some of their achievements

include: a measuring chair, a light pointer and the "Buggy Major" double stroller. Thanks to the advancement of knowledge and the close collaboration between doctors and rehabilitation professionals, young amputees were able to wear their first prosthesis. A toy lending library was also created to provide accessible toys to children with motor disorders. Research and teaching also began experiencing growth with the inauguration of the Research Pavilion in October of 1991, which housed the head office of the Réseau de Recherche en Réadaptation de Montréal et de l'Ouest du Québec. This network was composed of seven other physical rehabilitation centres in addition to the Marie Enfant Hospital. Neurologist Dr. Michel Vanasse was mandated to head the structuring and development of the Pavilion's research initiatives. The establishment also became a place of interest for internships in various professional disciplines.

Growing Rehabilitation at the UHC Sainte-Justine

The reform of the 1990s shook health and social services establishments. In 1995, a task force was established to conduct a review on services provided to children and families. Its objective was to simplify the transfer of children from one institution to another while minimizing wait time and pooling certain services. In January of 2000, the Marie Enfant Hospital joined the UHC Sainte-Justine. This association led to the transfer of a large number of children from the UHC Sainte-Justine to the Marie Enfant Hospital. Consequently, the number of children treated by the Hospital doubled. As a result of this association, the Hospital was renamed the Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant, and received university status. Since 2001, the Centre has also been managing the residential resources program for Montreal Francophone children with a hearing, language, motor or visual disability.

A Vision for the Future

Currently, the Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant has 13 programs with multidisciplinary teams who work to ensure the children's integration into community life and their social participation. Different interventional approaches are used, which focus on the child's or teenager's activities of daily living. More and more, special education teachers along with other rehabilitation professionals are conducting interventions in the children's different everyday environments.

The Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant is now celebrating 70 years of history. The children and their families have always been its main priority. They have been the team's interest, motivation and enthusiasm. The professionals give their time and energy to ensure their well-being. Driven by its own history and vision for the future, the Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant will continue pursuing excellence through its highly specialized services and exceptional medical and integrated rehabilitation teams so that children with physical disabilities and their families can fully enjoy life.

The Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant of the UHC Sainte-Justine is the only centre in Quebec exclusively dedicated to pediatric rehabilitation. It provides specialized and ultra-specialized rehabilitation services to children with physical or language disabilities aged 0 to 18 years. The

team consists of over 250 rehabilitation professionals who serve more than 4000 children every year. 2007 marks the Rehabilitation Centre Marie Enfant's 70th anniversary.

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