CDC’s Autism Research and Resources

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Autism CARES Meeting: Pathways to Progress
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Autism Research:

SEED and ADDM
Case-control study of children aged 2.5–5 years in 6 states

Describe **phenotypic variability** among children with ASD

Evaluate **etiologic risk factors** for ASD, e.g.,

- Role of infection & immune function
- Role of specific obstetric complications (preterm delivery, C-section, assisted reproductive technology)
- How phenotypic variability is associated with genetic or environmental risk factors
Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM)

- Medical, school record review
- 8-year-olds – 10 sites
- 4-year-olds – 6 sites
- Not a national estimate
- Shows trends over time
- Next report: Spring 2018 for surveillance year 2014
- DSM-IV-TR vs DSM-5 comparison
Autism Resources:

Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Learn the Signs. Act Early.

To improve **early identification** of developmental delays and disabilities, including autism, by promoting **developmental monitoring** and screening so children and their families can get the services and support they need.
Three Components:

- **Health Education**
  - To help families “learn the signs” of healthy development and understand when and how to “act early”

- **Act Early Initiatives**
  - To improve communication and coordination among systems that must work together to identify and care for children with disabilities

- **Research and Evaluation**
  - To refine our efforts and identify promising practices for improving early identification
**Developmental Monitoring**

- Done by parents, teachers
- Ongoing process - begins at birth
- Sample tool - "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Milestone Checklists

**Developmental Screening**

- Formal process
- Recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics at 9, 18, and 24 or 30 months
- Uses a validated screening tool
- Done by medical professionals and may be done by teachers with special training
- Sample tool - Ages and Stages questionnaire

Look for developmental milestones

Important for tracking signs of development and identifying concerns
Learn the Signs. Act Early. Free Resources
For Everyone: Milestone Checklists

Your Baby at 9 Months

Milestone Moments

Track Your Child’s Developmental Milestones
For Everyone: CDC Milestone Tracker App
For Everyone: Illustrated Milestones

Welcome to Milestones in Action - a FREE library of photos and videos of developmental milestones.

cdc.gov/MilestonesInAction
For Parents: Children’s Books

WHERE IS BEAR?
A Terrific Tale for 2-Year-Olds

Written by Libby Martinez
Illustrated by Allison Valentine

Amazing Me
It's Busy Being 3!

Illustrated by
Allison Valentine

Written by
Julie Cook and
Linda A. Johns, MD
For Providers: Training

Developmental milestones & monitoring, what to do if there’s a concern

Identifying, diagnosing, and managing autism spectrum disorder

cdc.gov/WatchMeTraining

cdc.gov/AutismCaseTraining
Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Partnerships for Implementation
Collaborate to Make a Difference

- Work with programs that serve young families to **integrate** developmental monitoring
- Provide high-quality, research-based resources for providers and families
- Developmental monitoring complements developmental screening
Act Early Ambassadors

- 45 Ambassadors in 44 states/territories
- Community champions to improve early identification practices
- Serve as state or territory point-of-contact for the national program

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ambassadors-list.html
Making the Case for Programs and Providers
Learn the Signs. Act Early. Promising Practices

- Locally inspired models and ideas
- Selection criteria: reach, acceptability, sustainability, generalizability, evaluation results

https://blogs.cdc.gov/actearlypromisingpractices/
The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Helpful Links

- www.cdc.gov/milestonetracker
- www.cdc.gov/milestonesinaction
- www.cdc.gov/watchmetraining
- www.cdc.gov/autismcasetraining
- https://blogs.cdc.gov/actearlypromisingpractices/
- https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/seed.html
- https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm.html
- www.cdc.gov/autism