Two children’s books from the Act Early Program, "Amazing Me! It's Busy Being 3!” and "Where is Bear? A Terrific Tale for 2 Year-Olds”, available in Spanish and English, offer an innovative way of teaching parents about the importance of tracking developmental milestones and acting early if the milestones are not met. The books provide information in an interactive manner that exemplifies a positive method of parental engagement and creates an opportunity for parents and children to learn about developmental milestones.

Under the AUCD-CDC cooperative agreement, three AUCD Network Centers, including the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY (AUCD UCEDD), the Riley Child Development Center at Indiana University (AUCD LEND), and the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota (AUCD UCEDD), received sub-awards to evaluate the use of the children’s books as a means to promote developmental monitoring and parental engagement. These three centers are conducting an evaluative study to assess if using “Amazing Me! It’s Busy Being 3!” and “Where is Bear? A Terrific Tale for 2 Year-Olds”, increases parents’ knowledge on where to get information on developmental milestones, and their self-efficacy to track developmental milestones and communicate any concerns to a healthcare provider. These centers are evaluating both the Spanish and English versions of the books. Additionally, the Einstein Center Bronx, University of Minnesota, and Indiana University will also conduct formative testing with parents of children aged 9-18 months on a draft of a new LTSAE book for 1-year-olds that is currently in development. For more information, contact Abbey Alberico.