

Engaging communities one state at a time: The promotion of "Learn the Signs. Act Early." through state system grants

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Minnesota

Goal: To promote early screening and identification of neurodevelopmental disabilities in culturally and ethnically diverse communities through focused outreach of the LTSAE campaign message.



Selected Activities:

- Create training webinars promoting to LTSAE outreach in culturally/linguistically diverse communities.
- Recruit Act Early delegates from diverse communities (e.g. Somali, Hmong, Native America, Latino).
- Customize Act Early materials for local diverse communities.

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Wisconsin

Goal: Develop and implement training and technical assistance processes to support early identification, referral, and follow-up through public health systems.

Selected Activities:

- Convene an Act Early State Team and steering team to provide input on planning and implementation.
- Provide training and technical assistance on developmental monitoring using "Learn the Signs. Act Early." to approximately 20 public health community teams comprised of cross-sector partners.
- Integrate promotion of "Learn the Signs. Act Early." into existing regional early childhood trainings.
- Pilot and evaluate use of the developmental screening passport.

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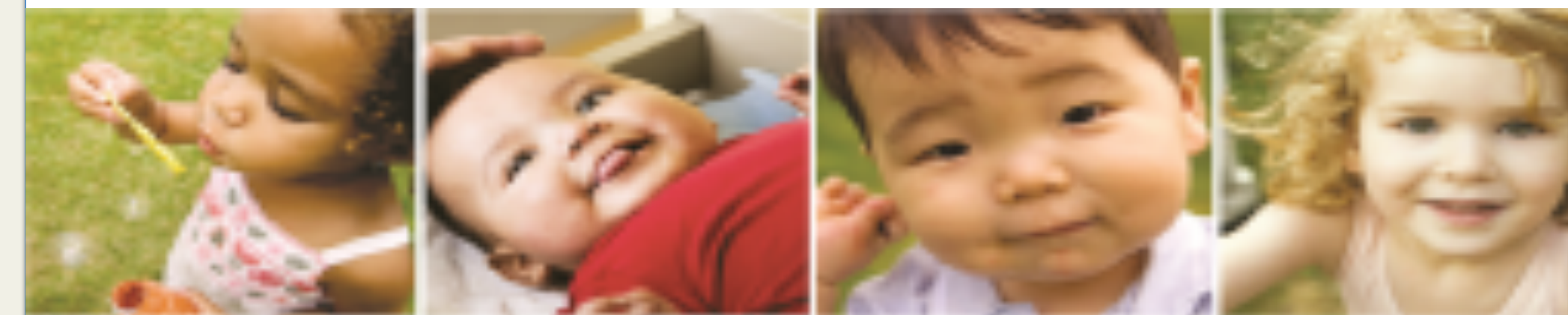
Act Early Initiatives

What is "Learn the Signs. Act Early."

CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.

The program is made up of three components:

- Health education campaign
- Act Early initiative
- Research and evaluation



Learn the Signs. Act Early.

State Systems Grant Overview

The State Systems grants are for a two-year period and are designed to aid state teams in building upon state programming currently in place or as a complement other state/local activities, rather than implement a new program. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC launched the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* (LTSAE) program in 2004 to provide educational information to parents, health care professionals and early care and education providers about the importance of early identification and intervention for children with signs of ASD/DD.



New Mexico

Goal: Develop a comprehensive plan to align, coordinate and promote statewide developmental screening programs for the early detection of ASD/DD and to enhance linkage to services through public awareness, professional development, and tracking of developmental screening activity and outcomes.

Selected Activities

- Convene the 2014 New Mexico Act Early State Team.
- Strengthen capacity among pediatric professionals through a webinar series in Early Childhood Development.
- Customize existing LTSAE/other public awareness materials to be responsive to the cultural & linguistic diversity in New Mexico.

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Montana

Goal: The Montana Team is convening over a two year period to: Develop a statewide ASD/DD plan, improve the capacity of local providers to deliver universal screening, disseminate information to hard-to-reach groups, establish a Montana Autism Toolkit and Roadmap for parents, providers and others.

Selected Activities:

- The initial plan is outlined and partners are in the review and feedback phase.
- The team is collaborating with Montana Part C to include LTSAE guidelines, practices and resources into the State Systems Improvement Plan.
- The Toolkit and Roadmap development is in process.

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