

Please Post
for Your Patients

Autism



Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is a developmental disability that occurs in **ONE IN 166 CHILDREN**, with more boys affected than girls. ASD involves delays and qualitative differences in social interaction, communication and behavior which appear in the preschool years.

Toddlers should be screened for autism as part of their regular check ups. **Please ask your pediatrician or family practitioner about autism screenings.**

**Early
intervention
is key.**

A message from the
Center for Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics
and the Margaret L. Williams Developmental
Evaluation Center

SUNY Upstate Medical University

UniversityHospital

www.upstate.edu/uh/peds/

Behavioral Clues in preschool children

COMMUNICATION

- delayed or unusual spoken language
- atypical nonverbal communication
- no pointing to desired objects

SOCIAL

- poor eye contact
- unresponsive to others' expressions
- atypical or absent play with peers
- lack of effort to share play interests and accomplishments with others
- lack of social turn-taking

BEHAVIORS

- atypical/absent pretend or imaginary play
- unusual or repetitive hand or finger movements
- unusual reactions to sights, sounds, touch, etc.
- rigid and limited play interests
- easily upset with small changes



SUNY UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
& University Hospital Syracuse, New York

Autism Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention

Clip and post the other side for your patients

Autism is a neurobiological disorder that occurs in one in 166 children, with more boys affected than girls. The disorder is found in all ethnic groups and crosses all income, educational and lifestyle boundaries. During the last 20 years, the incidence of autism has increased dramatically in the U.S.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is caused by a dysfunctional central nervous system, resulting in developmental difficulties that manifest within the first three years of life. Difficulties include qualitative differences in communication, socialization, and play patterns. Intensity of symptoms vary for each child with ASD and cognitive ability ranges from gifted to severely challenged. Only nine to 12 percent of children with autism never develop speech.

Autism screening tools, such as the *Checklists for Autism in Toddlers* (CHAT and M-CHAT), are available and should be part of regular check-ups at pediatrician and family practitioner offices. Children who screen positive should be referred for further developmental evaluation.

Early intervention is key

"Early diagnosis and behavioral intervention dramatically influence the outcome for a child with autism," notes Gregory Liptak MD, MPH, director of neurodevelopmental pediatrics at University Hospital. A nationally recognized developmental pediatrician, Liptak is one of eight physicians rewriting the American Academy of Pediatrics' guidelines for Autism Spectrum Disorders, to be published in spring 2007.



Gregory Liptak MD, MPH is director of the Center for Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics at University Hospital and professor of pediatrics and child development at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics Center

University Hospital's Center for Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics offers evaluation, initial diagnosis and referrals for patients, as well as regular follow-up visits to assess the child's progress with behavioral interventions. The Center is staffed by two neurodevelopmental physicians, two geneticists, a nurse practitioner, social worker, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. The Center serves 15 counties in Central New York and sees patients to age 20.

Margaret L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center

The Margaret Williams Center, directed by Carroll Grant PhD, offers evaluation and referrals for children up to 7 years and consultation services for children with autism up to 9 years. The staff includes Dr. Grant, a medical director, a psychiatrist, psychologists, speech/language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, special education teacher and nurses. They see children with complex developmental disabilities, half of whom have autism. Recently, the Center has added outreach support to day care centers, schools, and in homes for children with autism spectrum disorders. Located a few miles from University Hospital, the Center also serves 15 counties in Central New York.



School psychologist Carroll Grant PhD is director of the Margaret L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center, a program jointly supported by University Hospital's Department of Pediatrics and the CNY Developmental Services Office.

**MD Direct:
800-544-1605**

University Hospital's
Physician-To-Physician Service