

FYI: Resources help identify autism spectrum disorders early

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One of the best ways to support families during Autism Awareness Month in April is through early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities and timely guidance toward services and support.

The Academy is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE) program on free resources to help pediatricians identify the one in 68 children with autism spectrum disorder.

Family-friendly materials about typical child development from LTSAE are designed to engage families in the ongoing process of developmental surveillance, to help all families learn about developmental milestones, celebrate and support their children's progress, and participate more fully in developmental screening. Parents are better positioned to act on concerns and follow up on their pediatrician's recommendations.

Materials to enhance surveillance at health maintenance visits from 2 months to 5 years of age are available. The English and Spanish materials come in a variety of formats (checklists, booklets, children's books and more). Some materials are available in simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and other languages. They can be customized with a logo and local contact information.

Visit www.cdc.gov/ActEarly or email ActEarly@cdc.gov. Limited quantities can be ordered and shipped for free at www.cdc.gov/ActEarly/Orders. The CDC also offers a free Maintenance of Certification Part 2 continuing medical education course at www.cdc.gov/AutismCaseTraining.

