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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Autism Spectrum Disorders

NEW **The Autism Summit Conference** - a national conference focusing on the Federal government's role in biomedical **autism** research, early screening and diagnosis, and improving access to **autism** services, was held November 19-20,

2003, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The summit provided a public forum to disseminate, evaluate, and integrate the latest practice and science-based **autism** information among Federal, academic, and community participants. For a summary of this conference please [click here](#). Other information about the conference, including a link to view the videocast, may be found at: www.nimh.nih.gov/autismiacc/events.cfm.

Wanted! Your Input on Autism Research

We wanted to make you aware of some upcoming meetings that CDC is planning. The Interagency **Autism** Coordinating Committee (IACC) and the CDC have developed a 10-year **autism** research agenda, which was presented at the November 2003 **Autism** Summit.

The CDC will be holding a series of meetings to get broader public input on that agenda, particularly the portions dealing with CDC **autism** activities. The CDC will summarize these findings at the next IACC meeting, on November 19.

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The first listening session is scheduled for Friday, August 27th at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. Subsequent meetings will be held this fall at various locations around the country, and we appreciate the chance to work with you to outreach to local groups in these areas. Not all of the details have been determined, but the other events will likely take place in California, Indiana, and New York. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about these sessions and for all you do to promote the health of babies, children, and adults.

For additional information, please contact: Nora Pelzman at 1-800-9AUTISM (305-284-5264)

CDC's Autism Awareness Campaign

CDC is launching a consumer campaign to increase awareness and action in identifying children at risk for **autism** and other developmental disorders. Initially there will be an emphasis on educating health care professionals. This will help prepare the health care community for the anticipated increase in awareness and education among parents.

The campaign is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC, the **Autism** Society of America (ASA), Cure **Autism** Now (CAN), Organization for **Autism** Research (OAR), and the National Alliance for **Autism** Research (NAAR). [Click here](#) to read more about this upcoming campaign.

Autism A.L.A.R.M.

New Tool (Autism A.L.A.R.M.) Helps Primary Care Physicians Diagnose Autism Early By Chris P. Johnson, M.D., M.Ed., FAAP. AAP News. February 2004. [Full Text](#)

Autism A.L.A.R.M. The following guidelines adapted from key policy statements of the AAP and American Academy of Neurology, were developed in order to establish standard practices among physicians, to simplify the screening process, and to ensure that all children receive routine and appropriate screenings and timely interventions. These recommended guidelines are critical for ensuring that children stay on a healthy developmental path.

[Fact sheet](#) 

Autism Society of America Launches Spanish Section On Its Web site

The **Autism** Society of America (ASA) launched a [Spanish-language section](#) on its award-winning Web site, responding to the ever growing needs of the Hispanic community to deliver bi-lingual information on **autism** spectrum disorders.

Autism Information Center at NCBDDD:

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm

NCBDDD provides information about **autism**, CDC activities, other federal activities such as projects at the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies, state activities, resources and information for kids.

First Signs:

Screening Guidelines

www.firstsigns.org/pages/screening_process/guidelines.html

Information on Developmental Screening

www.firstsigns.org/pages/screening_process/dev_screen.html

Information on Autism Screening

www.firstsigns.org/pages/screening_process/autistic_screen.html

Information on Audiological Screening

www.firstsigns.org/pages/screening_process/audio_screen.html

To order educational materials, such as the "On the Spectrum: Children and **Autism**" video, "First Signs Screening Kit," and the "First Signs wall chart: Key Milestones for Social, Communication and Emotional Development," go to:

www.firstsigns.org/pages/products_&_services/index.html

Video Clip of "On the Spectrum: Children and **Autism**" attached below.

[First Signs VIDEO](#)

PowerPoint Presentation: 

Autism [Spectrum Disorders: Communication and Language](#)

Amy M. Wetherby

Dept. of Communication Disorders

Florida State University

Presented at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition, October 2003

Archived Webcasts:

Autism [Among Us: Rising Concerns and the Public Health Response](#)

Originally aired on June 20, 2003

[fact sheet](#)  | [pdf flyer](#) 

The Autism Summit Conference: Developing A National Agenda

Originally aired on Nov. 19-20, 2003; Washington, D.C.

Resources for Professionals

"Does MMR Vaccine Cause Autism? Examine the Evidence"

This site provides evidence that shows limitations in studies that suggest a connection between MMR vaccine and **autism**, and also provides a list of studies that refute a connection between MMR vaccine and the development of **autism**.

www.immunize.org/mmr/autism/index.htm

Institute Of Medicine Rejects Vaccines As Cause of Autism

A landmark [report by the Institute of Medicine](#) (IOM) rejected childhood vaccines as a cause of **autism**. The findings, based on reviews of current scientific evidence, are a significant affirmation of vaccine safety, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). [Click here](#) for the AAP Press Release.

Janzen, J.E. Understanding the Nature of **Autism**. *Therapy Skill Builders*, Second Edition with forwards by Brenda Smith Myles and June Groden. San Antonio, TX: 2003:508.

Grandin, T., Scariano, M. M. Emergence: Labeled Autistic. New York: Warner Books; 1996:180.

Bauman, M. L., Kemper, T.L. The Neurobiology of **Autism**. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; 1994:257.

Quill, K.A. Teaching Children with **Autism**: Strategies to Enhance Communication and Socialization. New York: Delmar Publishers; 1995:315.

Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination in Children with **Autism**

February 1, 2004 "Age at First Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination in Children with **Autism** and School-Matched Controls: A Population-Based Study in Metropolitan Atlanta," was published in the journal [Pediatrics](#), 113(2).

Resources for Families

Schopler, E. Parent Survival Manual: A Guide to Crisis Resolution in **Autism** and Related Developmental Disorders. New York: Plenum Press; 1995:224.

Powers, M. D. Children with **Autism**: A Parent's Guide. Second edition with a forward by Temple Grandin. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House; 2000:427.

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