


**Alabama Early Screening
Improvement Training**
Saturday, October 29, 2011
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

American Academy of Pediatrics 
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Alabama Chapter

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

**Developmental
Screening Tools**

Faculty

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**Commercial
Interests Disclosure**

- Angela Barber, PhD, CCC-SLP
 - Does not intend to discuss any commercial products or services
 - Does not intend to discuss any non-FDA approved uses of products/providers of service
 - No significant financial relationship

**Commercial
Interests Disclosure**

- Ashley Evans, MD, FAAP
 - Does not intend to discuss any commercial products or services
 - Does not intend to discuss any non-FDA approved uses of products/providers of service
 - No significant financial relationship

**Prospective Study on Red Flags
of ASD at 2 Years (n=18)**

- 9 ASD Red Flags
 - Impairment in social interaction
 - Lack of appropriate gaze
 - Lack of warm, joyful expressions
 - Lack of sharing interest or enjoyment
 - Lack of response to name

Prospective Study on Red Flags of ASD at 2 Years (n=18)

- Impairment in communication
- Lack of showing
- Lack of coordination of nonverbal communication
- Unusual prosody
- Repetitive behavior and restricted interests

Prospective Study on Red Flags of ASD at 2 Years (n=18)

- Repetitive movements with objects
- Repetitive movements or posturing of body
- 4 ASD and DD red flags
 - Impairment in communication
 - Lack of pointing

Prospective Study on Red Flags of ASD at 2 Years (n=18)

- Lack of playing with a variety of toys
- Lack of response to contextual cues
- Lack of communicative vocalizations with consonants

- Wetherby, Woods, Allen, Cleary, Dickinson, and Lord, 2004

Practice Parameters for Screening

- Absolute indications for immediate further evaluation
 - No babbling by 12 months
 - No gesturing by 12 months
 - No single words by 16 months

Practice Parameters for Screening

- No 2-word spontaneous phrases by 24 months
- Any loss of language or social skills at any age

- Filipek et al., 1999, AAP, 2007

Early Identification of ASD Is Critical

- Diagnostic stability studies have shown that children can accurately be diagnosed at 24 months
- National average of diagnosis is 3 years

- Cox et al., 1999; Lord et al., 2006

Early Identification of ASD Is Critical

- Alabama average age of diagnosis is 6 years
- By testing children at an earlier age we can begin implementing intervention strategies

Autism Video Glossary

- Video:
www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism
- Glossary:
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/video-glossary>

Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)

- Administered at 18 and 24 months
- 23 questions expanded and adapted from earlier CHAT
 - English or Spanish
- Can be scored in five minutes by a professional or paraprofessional

Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)

- Yes/No responses convert to Pass/Fail responses
- Robins, Fein, & Barton, 1999

Critical Items

2: Does your child take an interest in other children?

The screenshot shows the M-CHAT checklist with question #2 highlighted. The question is: "Does your child take an interest in other children?" The response options are "Yes" and "No".

Critical Items

7: Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?

The screenshot shows the M-CHAT checklist with question #7 highlighted. The question is: "Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?" The response options are "Yes" and "No".

M-CHAT

- Parents of toddlers at 18 and 24 month well child visits completed the M-CHAT at 46 pediatricians' offices (n = 4,797)
- One clinic did not see children at 18 months, so M-CHAT was completed at 15 and 24 months

M-CHAT

- Follow up phone interviews were completed for children judged by M-CHAT to be at risk for ASD

M-CHAT (Robins, 2008)

- PPV = .058 for M-CHAT alone
- PPV = .57 for M-CHAT and interview combined
- Authors concluded that results support use of Level 1 screening for ASD in primary care setting
- Only 4 of the 21 children diagnosed with ASD in this sample had been flagged by health care providers

(Robins, 2008) Conclusions

- “At risk scores on the M-CHAT plus interview, combined with pediatrician’s flag for ASD concerns, were highly accurate in identifying ASD cases (80% of cases for whom both M-CHAT plus interview and pediatrician concerns were indicated were diagnosed with ASD).”

What Is Happening in Alabama to Improve Early Identification of ASD?

Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative

- Objectives
 - Increased awareness of early developmental milestones as well as early indicators of ASD/DD among young children



Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative

- Increased referrals to sources of screening, evaluation, and intervention for developmental delays
- Coordinated efforts within the ASD and early childhood education communities and service providers

Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative

- Activities include:
 - Produce Alabama-specific awareness materials
 - Develop Act Early Alabama website to direct caregivers and professionals to assessment and intervention resources

Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative

- Develop a statewide network of Act Early trainers
- Provide Act Early webinar for professionals across Alabama
 - Free of charge

Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative

- Bring together stakeholders including representatives from state agencies, family members, and others to develop a state plan for information dissemination

West Alabama Autism Outreach Program: Screening

- Collaborate with healthcare providers across West Alabama to screen 1,000 children at their 18 and 24 month well-child visits during the next year

West Alabama Autism Outreach Program: Screening

- Caregiver screening measures:
 - Ages and stages questionnaire
 - Early screening for Autism and communication disorders



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**West Alabama Autism
Outreach Program: Surveillance**

- Healthcare providers will be offered free Continuing Medical Education workshops on recognizing the early signs of Autism
 - Identify 5 early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Information about screening instruments

**West Alabama Autism
Outreach Program: Surveillance**

- Material from the CDC Learning the Signs: Act Early campaign
- For more information contact:
 - Kelly Dickey at (205) 348-3130