

[a message to educators]

If You Suspect a Developmental Delay or Autism, Speak Up!

Your Intervention Can Change a Child's Life

As an early childhood educator, you are face-to-face with young children every day. You observe them, teach them, love them and interact with them. That means you're in the *ideal position* to notice if their development seems delayed.

When this happens — **you need to talk to the parents and urge them to have their child screened.** Let them know that early intervention can make a huge difference in a child's life.

There is no doubt that this can be a difficult conversation to have with a parent. But through this program, you'll have the **tools and conversation-starters** you need to speak up when you suspect autism.

And remember — by having this conversation with parents, you can make a life-changing difference for a child.

So please: start the dialogue *today*.

About This Kit

This innovative kit contains the tools you need to **be prepared to talk to parents** about a developmental screening. Brought to you by Autism Speaks and the Advertising Council, it contains:

- **Talking to Parents About Autism Training DVD:** designed to equip you to "have the conversation"
- **Early Childhood Milestone Map:** a handy take-home flier to share with parents

The DVD: A Closer Look

Talking to Parents About Autism is a documentary-style, hands-on resource with examples of how to broach the topic of a potential developmental delay with parents. It contains real-life **situations, strategies and success stories.**

In addition, the DVD includes:

- The full documentary in Spanish
- Links to extensive online resources, including AutismSpeaks.org and CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* Campaign.



You Can Make a Difference!

- Studies from multiple communities across the country suggest that about 1 in 150 American children, and 1 in 95 boys, has autism
- Autism is more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined
- Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups
- Autism spectrum disorders can usually be reliably diagnosed by age 3, but many children can be diagnosed at even younger ages
- When you suspect a developmental delay, you can — and should — talk to the child's parents
- Early intervention can make a huge difference in a child's life

You are not being asked to diagnose. You're simply being asked to encourage parents to take the next step for the good of their child's development.

To learn more, visit www.AutismSpeaks.org



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

www.AutismSpeaks.org



www.adcouncil.org



www.cdc.gov/actearly

