

SEPTEMBER, 2000

ADAMS COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES:

Adams County Child Health Notes is distributed by Adams County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Adams County Health District. This newsletter provides physicians and nurse practitioners with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: Adams County ICC – Adams County Health District - Department of Health - Children With Special Health Care Needs Program (Contract #N08400), Univ. of Washington - Center on Human Development and Disability, Whatcom County Medical Home Team. Additional Child Health Notes are available at <http://depts.washington.edu/medhome/>.



"Looking back, it seems obvious; but it wasn't then. He was, and is, a wonderful kid. Now I remember that he didn't play peek-a-boo and it was hard to get his attention by calling his name, but he was a happy baby who grew into an enthusiastic toddler. Then, between two and three, he seemed to get stuck. He learned words, but didn't use them like other kids. He got to be "difficult" and the books on parenting and temperament didn't help. Then the evaluations started. By the time we learned he had PDD, I think a lot of people were trying to help. What I remember most is that his second speech therapist said he was wonderful; then she started with what he could do, and helped him with the next step and the next after that. It's hard to say what I feel about what she did, but it is as if he had been drowning and she reached out and got hold of him and brought him back to us."

Parent of a child with PDD

AUTISM / PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS: DEVELOPMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) are developmental conditions that include impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual or severely limited activities and interests. Associated characteristics include repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

Autism / PDD occurs in approximately 1 per 1,000 births. These disorders are four times more common in boys than girls. Children with autism / PDD vary widely in abilities, intelligence, and behaviors. Early identification and intervention is associated with improved prognosis.

Current research indicates the majority of children with autism/PDD display differences in communication and social development as early as 12 to 18 months. Children in this age group generally display reduced ability to:

- Respond when their name is called
- Make eye contact
- Point out and show things to others
- Engage in imitation games
- Use gestures communicatively

Use a parent questionnaire and developmental screening tool at the 12 and 18 month well child exam to detect early problems in a child's communication and social skills. Refer for additional developmental assessment for the above "red flags" and/or for parental concerns.

REGIONAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED AUTISM / PDD:

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, CENTER ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY:

Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic
Developmental Neuropsychiatry Clinic

Cathy Brock (206) 543-5143
Cathy Brock (206) 543-5143

Child Development Clinic

Gretchen Glass (206) 685-1251

INTERNET RESOURCES

- Autism Society of America: www.autism-society.org
- Medline plus: Autism: www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/autism.html
- NIH Autism Fact Sheet: www.ninds.nih.gov/patients/disorder/autism/autism.htm

ADAMS COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- **For children under age three:** Contact: Adams County Health District
Phone: 659-3317 or 488-2031
- **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone	Fax	District:	Phone	Fax
Othello School	488-4682	488-5876	Ritzville School	659-0232	659-0927
Lind School	677-3481	677-3463	Washtucna School	646-3237	646-3249

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- **Local:** Adams County Health District 659-3317 or 488-2031
- **Regional:** Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
Health Professional Hotline (800) 293-2462
Parent Resource Line (877) 526-2500

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program www.wa.gov/shs/iteip/iteip.html
- **National/ Internet:** AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics www.dbpeds.org/
American Family Physician www.aafp.org
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry www.aacap.org.htm
Family Village www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/
Family Voices www.familyvoices.org

**Funds from the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program through Adams County Health District enabled four staff members from Othello School District to attend the Autism Summer Institute this summer. The Summer Institute provides an opportunity to learn about research, trends and practices in the area of autism. If you have questions about information received from the Autism Summer Institute please call Othello School District at 488-2659 and ask for Kathy Dalbeck or Heidi Wagner.*

*These webpages have been suggested as good resources for families of children with autism:
The Autism Society of Washington www.autismsocietyofwa.org.
FEAT/Families for Effective Autism Treatment www.featwa.org or www.feat.org.*

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