

Parent Blocks

NEWSLETTER



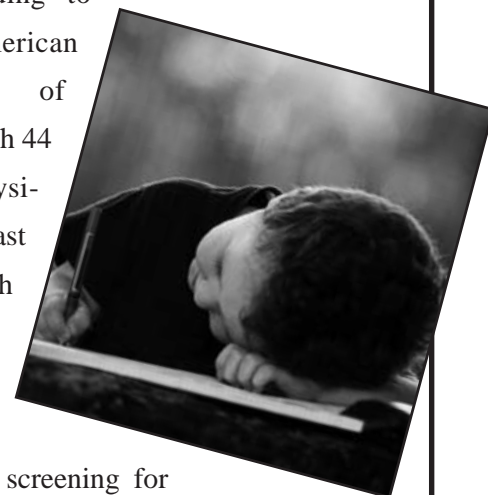
"Providing resources to parents throughout West Virginia"
Volume 8, Issue 4, Fall 2011

Autism Indicators

The incidence of Autism in children has increased over the recent years to an alarming 1 in 100 to 1 in 150 children. This increase can be largely attributed to the increased identification and diagnosis of children with milder Autism symptoms. Though Autism cannot be prevented or cured, early intervention can lessen the severity of Autism symptoms. This makes early identification of children with Autism crucial.

The parent is often the first person to notice abnormalities in their child's development that could be indicative of Autism and bring these concerns to the pediatrician.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics though 44 percent of physicians treat at least 10 children with Autism, less than 10 percent actually



do any routine screening for the condition. This can cause delay in diagnosis until symptoms are more pronounced as the child ages.

Children with Autism have communication difficulties, problems with social interaction, and restricted or repetitive movements. Symptoms can range from barely noticeable to severe. Early indicators in infants include no babbling by 12 months; no gesturing, which includes

Continued on next page

WV Parent Blocks Newsletter is a project of West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a collaborative project of West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources/Bureau for Children and Families/Division of Early Care and Education; WV Head Start State Collaboration Office; Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health/West Virginia Birth to Three; and West Virginia Department of Education/Office of Special Education and is supported and administered by River Valley Child Development Services.

Permission to photocopy

Visit our website at www.wvearlychildhood.org

pointing or waving bye-bye by 12 months; no single words by 16 months; and no two word phrases by 24 months.

In older children, parents should be concerned if the child does not respond to his name, the child appears deaf at times or has inconsistent hearing; if the child doesn't point or wave bye-bye or use gestures; if the child is serious and doesn't smile socially; if the child seems to prefer to play alone or is just not interested in interacting with other children; if the child has poor eye contact or seems to be in his own world and has been described as tuning out others; if the child gets stuck on things over and over or may do some activities repeatedly; if the gets upset by what seem to be minor changes in routine, has obsessive interests, or has some unusual motor actions such as flapping his hands or rocking his body or spinning his body or objects in circles.

Just because a child experiences one or more of these symptoms does not mean the he or she definitely has Autism. It does, however, mean that a further assessment is necessary. If Autism is identified early, treatment can be initiated to lessen the symptoms for the child.

*-Article by Christy Freed, RN,
Child Care Nurse Health
Consultant*

Using Media to Preserve Your Family's History

Preserving your family's history is an important part of building a lasting legacy. Many times, important stories, dates, and experiences get lost and end with the death of a loved one. Keeping a history of your family provides an opportunity for relatives to share stories and capture moments in time.

With so many new technological advances, there are several ways to collect and preserve your family's heritage.

Journals: Perhaps the most tried and true method is the use of journals. Many families have well-documented histories due to those who have painstakingly relayed details of their life.

Photographs: Photographs are an important link to the past and capture a moment in time. It is important to make sure to keep notations about the photographs, including names of those in the photo, ages, the place the photo was taken, and what the photo represents.

Video imaging: A wonderful advancement that has provided a new layer to preserving a family's history. Video provides moving images, and can also include audio. Personalities emerge and are captured on film as stories are related and recorded.

Audio: Audio is a special gift because relatives get to remember or hear for the first time the voice of a relative. This also provides special insight into the personality of the individual.

Recording your family's history is an activity that can include all ages. Children will often be fascinated by the details and stories that emerge. It will give them a sense of being connected to their family.



Meet Greg.

He loves hunting, playing the drums and especially, the new baby in his life. When the baby cries, he knows how to chill.

- Make sure the baby is safe—in his crib, on his back.
- Make sure the baby isn't hungry, sick or in need of a diaper change.
- Then, step away for a few minutes. Or call someone for help.

Never, ever shake a baby.

KEEP YOUR COOL

Our Babies:
safe&sound

The
West Virginia
Children's Trust
Fund

TEAM

For West Virginia
Children

Additional support from the
Claude Worthington
Benedum Foundation

For video + more
information visit:

SafeSoundBabies.com

This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant to the TEAM for West Virginia Children from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources



What Does WV Birth to Three Mean to You?

“WVBTT is like family. They were with us through the good and bad times. During the bad times, they helped us understand and cope. During the good times, they were celebrating with us. My daughter may not be cured, but I can only imagine where she might be without the wonderful, caring, supportive people at WVBTT.”

Eric, Parent



West Virginia Birth to Three provides early intervention supports and services to families of children under age three who have developmental delays.

In 2009, WVBTT provided comprehensive developmental services to more than **5,000** children and their families!

“It is a joy to interact and help families make a difference in their children’s lives. Seeing children grow and achieve goals right in front of my eyes and being a part of something bigger than myself—that is the best part of being a practitioner in Birth to Three.”

Rachel, Service Coordinator



“My child was in Birth to Three and I loved it so much I never left...now I am a practitioner.”

Michelle, Developmental Specialist

“We didn’t know where to start when our son was first diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Birth to Three helped us to understand the diagnosis, we didn’t feel alone anymore, they helped us look at what all our son could do and not focus on what he couldn’t. I could not praise them enough. Without them, I would have been totally lost. They gave me all of the resources that I needed to help my son to get to his full potential. Thank you WVBTT.”

Joetta, Parent