

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Act Early State Autism Team, we are pleased to provide you with the autism screening kit, *Considering Culture in Autism Screening*, to assist you in your role as a Massachusetts pediatric clinician or community health center provider.

This free screening kit holds key information about culturally competent screening and referral practices to detect autism and other developmental concerns in children from immigrant families or from families whose primary language is not English. It is designed to strengthen provider knowledge and confidence when working with families from diverse backgrounds, and to increase the likelihood that *all* children in Massachusetts, regardless of cultural or linguistic barriers, will gain access to high-quality, routine autism screening.

Please print and share these reproducible materials widely with colleagues and staff. The kit is available in a downloadable electronic version that is free to the public at www.MAActEarly.org. Inside the kit, you will find:

- The clinician guide, *Considering Culture in Autism Screening*, complete with practical tips and case examples of screening in four cultures: Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Spanish, and Vietnamese (unstapled for easy printing)
- *Referral Information at a Glance* with listings of developmental evaluation centers in MA
- *Resources* with national listings of government, special, and disability-specific resources
- *Pediatric Developmental Screening Flowchart* to assist providers through the process (CDC)
- *Fact sheets* on screening, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Asperger Syndrome (CDC)
- *Track Your Child's Developmental Milestones* brochures in English and Spanish (CDC)
- *Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)* * screening tool (Robins et al.) with instructions, a scoring guide, the brief 23-question M-CHAT screening tool (in English with translations in Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Spanish and Vietnamese), and the critically important M-CHAT Follow-up Interview
- A feedback survey (also available at www.MAActEarly.org).

The Massachusetts Act Early campaign aims to educate parents and professionals about childhood development, including early warning signs of autism and other developmental disorders, and encourages developmental screening and intervention. To learn more about our efforts, please visit our web site at www.MAActEarly.org or contact me at the email address below. Our state team is honored to share the enclosed screening kit with our colleagues and hope that it will lead to improved developmental outcomes for all children in Massachusetts.

All the best,



Elaine M. Gabovitch, MPA

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* More M-CHAT translations are available at <http://www.mchatscreen.com>

Considering Culture in Autism Screening was developed through collaboration between the Massachusetts Act Early State Autism Team, pediatric developmental specialists, primary care clinicians practicing in neighborhood health centers with diverse populations, and community liaisons. The project was funded by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) as part of the national "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) in collaboration with the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD).