

Early Intervention in Autism: Is it Early Enough?

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An investigation of the current literature on the implications of making EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) in AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) earlier in order to minimize the developmental gap between typically developing children and children with ASD.

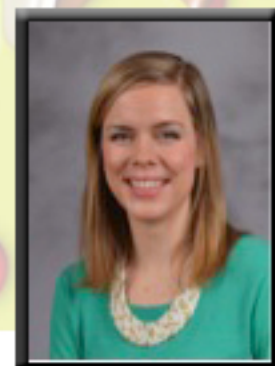
CHANGE THE PATTERN:
Up until this point, children have typically been diagnosed at around 18 months of age, but symptoms can be seen as early as 6 months of age.

CASE STUDIES:
EI was given to a child between 9 months of age and 24 months of age, reducing his diagnosis to a high-functioning form of Autism.
(Vismara, 2008)
Pivotal Response Training, a form of EI, was given to three infants increasing their capacities for social engagement.
(Koegel, 2014)



IMPLICATIONS:
EI should be child-focused, practiced in the child's most natural environment and emphasize parental involvement.

CONCLUSION:
Earlier EI in ASD can be life changing. More empirical research should be conducted. In the meantime, clinicians should advocate for regular infant screenings and intervention.



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