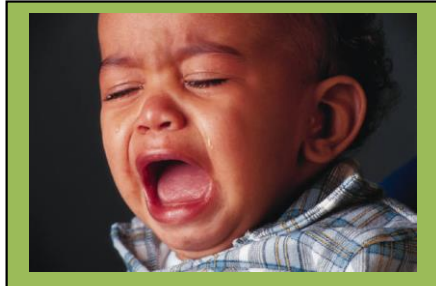


ABILITIESUNLIMITED, LLC

THE AGE OF AUTISM

Why are Ethnically-Diverse Children being Diagnosed at a Later Age?



What Can We Do?

Define & Describe Autism in ways that can be understood by everyone.

Provide services for children residing in low-income communities.

Make sure that we educate our families, friends and co-workers about the value of an early diagnosis.

Promote diversity among professionals serving children with autism.

Share resources on how to locate professionals who have a history of serving ethnic minorities.

Make your concerns known to anyone who is willing to genuinely listen.

Learn as much as you can and then you will be empowered to make the difference.

If you are a parent take your child for a free screening.

If you are an early childhood professional you can provide free autism screenings.

The rise of autism is present in every community. Autism is on a rise in white middle-class neighborhoods. We have seen an upswing in low-income communities. It is increasing in all racial and ethnic communities. However, studies have concluded that Black, Latino, and other ethnically diverse children are diagnosed later compared to their White counterparts.

The discrepancy in diagnosis and treatment is due several factors. Some of the reasons for this late diagnosis may include lack of ethnic professionals serving children with autism, inadequate healthcare, lack of autism outreach in under-served communities. In addition, some parents may be afraid that they will be blamed and stigmatized for their child's disability.

The autism community needs to find more creative ways to make sure that all communities are aware of the autism prevalent. Providers need to be more socially sensitive and outreach in minority communities. Families need to act quickly to secure an appropriate evaluation for their child. We are convinced that early identification and intervention is our best weapon against autism.

The early symptoms of autism include uncontrollable crying, speech difficulties, uncontrollable tantrums, feeding difficulties, poor motor skills, difficulties with sleep, little eye contact, covering ears, sensory challenges, spinning wheels on toy cars, flapping arms or hands, spinning body, slow to potty train, walking on toes, no social smile, not responding to name and throwing toys.



At Abilities Unlimited LLC we provide FREE Developmental and Autism Screenings

“Children from minority backgrounds are diagnosed at a much later age.”

Written by Beverly Dabrio, MA, BCBA

WWW.ABILITIESUNLIMITEDTHERAPY.COM