

# [a message to educators]

## If You Suspect a Developmental Delay or Autism, Speak Up!

### *Your Intervention Can Change a Child's Life*

As an early childhood educator, you are face-to-face with young children every day. You observe them, teach them, love them and interact with them. That means you're in the *ideal position* to notice if their development seems delayed.

When this happens — **you need to talk to the parents and urge them to have their child screened.** Let them know that early intervention can make a huge difference in a child's life.

There is no doubt that this can be a difficult conversation to have with a parent. But through this program, you'll have the **tools and conversation-starters** you need to speak up when you suspect autism.

And remember — by having this conversation with parents, you can make a life-changing difference for a child.

So please: start the dialogue *today*.

### About This Kit

This innovative kit contains the tools you need to **be prepared to talk to parents** about a developmental screening. Brought to you by Autism Speaks and the Advertising Council, it contains:

- **Talking to Parents About Autism Training DVD:** designed to equip you to "have the conversation"
- **Early Childhood Milestone Map:** a handy take-home flier to share with parents

To learn more, visit [www.AutismSpeaks.org](http://www.AutismSpeaks.org)



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### *You Can Make a Difference!*

- Studies from multiple communities across the country suggest that about 1 in 88 American children, and 1 in 54 boys, has an autism spectrum disorder
- Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic and social groups
- Autism spectrum disorders can be reliably diagnosed by age 2, but many children can be diagnosed at even younger ages
- When you suspect a developmental delay, you can — and should — talk to the child's parents
- Early intervention can make a huge difference in a child's life

You are not being asked to diagnose. You're simply being asked to encourage parents to take the next step for the good of their child's development.