

# “Unseen But in Need”

## Identifying Girls with Autism in EI

April 2023



### Vocabulary

**ADOS:** Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule

<https://www.wpspublish.com/ados-2-autism-diagnostic-observation-schedule-second-edition>

**M-CHAT:** The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers

<https://mchatscreen.com/>

**POSI:** Parent’s Observations of Social Interest

<https://pediatrics.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/The-Survey-of-Wellbeing-of-Young-Children/Parts-of-the-SWYC/POSI>

### Characteristics Commonly Seen as autism:

<b>Educational Impact</b>	Explain that specific types of support may be necessary to help the child be successful in the classroom. This does not mean they will not be able to learn and improve their academic skills.	“A child’s current communication skills are resulting in an educational impact because she does not speak aloud or vocalize in the classroom. The teacher now gives her a block to place on the numbers as the teacher says them aloud. The child is then able to correctly identify the numbers.”
<b>Red Flags</b>	Explain that certain behaviors may lead us to explore whether their child has certain needs related to a diagnosis.	“Signs” “Indications” “Characteristics”
<b>Percent Delay</b>	Explain that this helps providers know how much support may be needed in a particular area by better understanding the child’s current skills in comparison to their age.	“A child requires moderate support with gross motor skills compared to what is expected for his age since he is still crawling.”
<b>Areas of Deficit</b>	Explain that this means either their child’s performance in a certain area may need more support compared to either their child’s performance in other areas or in comparison to what we would expect for their age.”	“Areas requiring additional support” “A child has strong play skills with toys, but an area of need is interacting with other children while playing.”

## Tips for Providers

### **Open Dialogue**

Try to make it a conversation (Give opportunities to pause and for the family to ask questions).

### **Highlight Positives**

Highlight the child's strengths OR what the parents report to admire about their child.

### **Use Specific Examples**

Give examples of concerns your team observed during the assessment (e.g.: behaviors, regressions, atypical development).

### **Support Findings**

Use evidence-based resources or have materials handy to support the facts you are about to share (POSI Score).

### **Listen and Watch**

Take into consideration the parent's verbal/non-verbal cues to make a judgement call on how to proceed.

### **Encourage**

Encourage the parent to talk with their developmental pediatrician (since we do not diagnose) for further evaluation.

### **Remind**

Remind the parents that the EI team is here to support their child and family through this process.

## Additional Resources

Delayed and Missed Diagnoses of Autistic Women - Autism Research Institute

<https://www.autism.org/gender-differences-in-diagnoses/>

Gender Dysphoria and ASD - Autism Research Institute

<https://www.autism.org/webinars/gender-dysphoria-asd/>

September 30, 2022: Autism in Girls: Autism for Rural Healthcare Providers (instructure.com)

[https://uwyo3.instructure.com/courses/1998/pages/september-30-2022-autism-in-girls?module\\_item\\_id=92514](https://uwyo3.instructure.com/courses/1998/pages/september-30-2022-autism-in-girls?module_item_id=92514)

Behavioral and Brain Signatures of Autism in Females - ARI

<https://www.autism.org/gender-brain-differences-autism/>

## Resources from Webinar

2016-2017 IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder (hhs.gov)

[https://iacc.hhs.gov/publications/strategic-plan/2017/strategic\\_plan\\_2017.pdf](https://iacc.hhs.gov/publications/strategic-plan/2017/strategic_plan_2017.pdf)

Girls on the Autism Spectrum - NEW | Autism Internet Modules

<https://autisminternetmodules.org/m/523/3564>

Autism First Signs and Checklist in Girls | Autism SA

<https://autismsa.org.au/autism-diagnosis/autism-symptoms/signs-of-autism-in-girls/>

Not Just for Boys: When Autism Spectrum Disorders Affect Girls | Kennedy Krieger Institute

[https://www.kennedykrieger.org/stories/interactive-autism-network-ian/autism\\_in\\_girls](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/stories/interactive-autism-network-ian/autism_in_girls)

The lost girls | Spectrum | Autism Research News (spectrumnews.org)

<https://www.spectrumnews.org/features/deep-dive/the-lost-girls/>

Understanding autism in Girls - Children's National (childrensnational.org)

<https://riseandshine.childrensnational.org/understanding-autism-in-girls/>

Studies of autism tend to exclude women, researchers find | MIT News | Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<https://news.mit.edu/2022/studies-autism-women-bias-0908>

Home (vkclearning.org)- create free account and check out EI provider courses (Neurodiversity)

<https://triad.vkclearning.org/en-us/>

DSM-5 Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/hcp-dsm.html>

What is ASD?

[https://firstwordsproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/What\\_is\\_AS\\_D\\_02.pdf](https://firstwordsproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/What_is_AS_D_02.pdf)

Parts of the SWYC - POSI at Tufts Medical Center

<https://pediatrics.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/The-Survey-of-Wellbeing-of-Young-Children/Parts-of-the-SWYC/POSI>

Autism and Bilingualism - for Families

<https://autism-bilingualism.github.io/resources/>

[Video] 9 Childhood Autistic Traits in Girls | EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLiOARAtFNs>

[Video] Priscilla: Life With My Teenage Daughter With Autism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jjk4jcz8SWc>

[Video] Very early signs of autism. 7, 8, and 9 months old.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClgPCJhndV4>

[Video] AUTISM AND REGRESSION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aga284agIW4>

[Video] Autism Mom VLOG #4 - Early Signs of Autism + Special Needs Dentist Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b62EueXOYII>

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