



# REFLECTIONS

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024 ISSUE

## ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES PARTNER LAUNCH CLASS OF JANUARY 2024

We had an incredible turnout for our January 2024 ECHO Autism Communities Partner Launch Training! Look at these organizations who are changing the world!

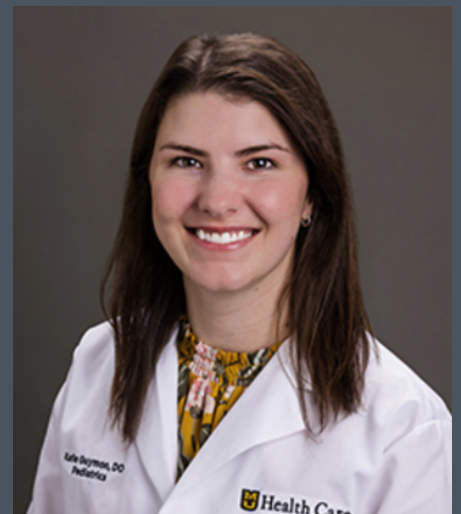
- Anderson Center for Autism
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Saskatchewan Health Authority dba Provincial Autism Strategy
- Project 8p Foundation
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disability
- Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center
- Nemours Children's Health
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- SUNY Upstate Medical University



## ECHO AUTISM IN THE NEWS

ECHO Autism STAT Early Diagnostic Model clinician, Dr. Kathryn Guymon, was featured in the MU Health Care newsletter, LiveHEALTHY. In the article titled "Worried Your Child Has Autism? 5 Things to Know", Dr. Guymon provides information for parents to consider if they suspect their child is on the autism spectrum including the role of the pediatrician, characteristics of autism and the formal diagnosis process.

Read the full article [HERE](#).



Dr. Kathryn Guymon

**2024 ECHO AUTISM  
COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM**

**APRIL 11, 2024**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**REGISTER HERE**

Join us for the biggest event of the year! Featuring renowned guest speakers, you won't want to miss this free symposium. Sign up today!

**NEW ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES TEAM MEMBERS**

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the ECHO Autism Communities team. We are excited for our team to continue to grow!



Courtney Le  
Program Coordinator



Jackie Jiordano  
Research Specialist II



## ECHO AUTISM SPANISH PROGRAMS UPDATE

Kicking off in Bolivia, ECHO Autismo Serendipia celebrated the successful conclusion of its inaugural cohort. The results? Excellent! Now, the team is gearing up for the next chapter, refining goals and focusing on empowering local community leaders—especially parents. Get ready for the ECHO model to work its magic in building local capacity!

Now, let's talk about Mexico, where ECHO Autismo Puebla cohort ended up in November with a bang! The participation was outstanding, setting the stage for what's to come. Brace yourselves for a shift towards inclusion because this year's plans include the launch of two distinct cohorts—clinical and educational. Excitement is building, and we can't wait to dive into these new initiatives!

Heading down south, ECHO Autismo PROTECTEA from Argentina rolled out four impactful programs in 2023, focusing on diagnostics, intervention, Caregiver Skills Training, and an Introduction to neurodevelopment. The response? Phenomenal! Participants from all corners of Latin America joined the action, making these programs a testament to collaboration.

We are absolutely thrilled by the outstanding work of our Latin American partners! We are immensely proud of their achievements and eagerly anticipate the impact on those who need it most.

### **A PEDIATRICIAN'S PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NAVIGATING TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD WITH AUTISTIC YOUTH AND THEIR CAREGIVERS**

The transition to adulthood is a critical time for patients and families. Pediatricians have an important role in supporting their autistic patients through the transition to adulthood by providing anticipatory guidance and guiding the patient and caregiver through the collaborative process of individualized transition planning. Our own Dr. Kristin Sohl co-authored an important article "A Pediatrician's Practical Guide for Navigating Transition to Adulthood with Autistic Youth and Their Caregivers" which highlights the importance of the pediatrician during the transition to adulthood to ensure the transition from pediatric to adult care produces positive outcomes for autistic people.

Read the article [HERE](#).

## ECHO AUTISM PROGRAM LAUNCHES

### **Republic of Georgia Mental Health Centre**

**(GAMMA):** The focus of GAMMA is to improve services for children on the autism spectrum in primary healthcare settings located in remote regions of the Republic of Georgia. The target audience for this program is primary health doctors. The program runs from January 2024 through June 2024.



**Saskatchewan Health Authority dba Provincial Autism Strategy (SHA):** The focus of SHA is on early intervention for young children recently diagnosed with autism, and the target audience is all early intervention providers. The program runs from March – June 2024 on Wednesday mornings from 8:00-9:15 AM, twice monthly.

**University of Iowa:** This new ECHO at the University of Iowa was created to support the mental health of marginalized youth across local communities in Iowa. The target audience for this ECHO is K-6 teachers who have children on the autism spectrum in their classrooms. Teachers will be provided the opportunity to learn evidence-based behavior strategies to foster a positive classroom environment for all. The ECHO launched on January 17, 2024 and will continue to run through May 2024, on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 PM, twice monthly.

**Wake Forest University:** This newly launched ECHO at Wake Forest University was created for primary care providers to bridge the care gap between primary care, behavioral health, and community health care specialists by sharing best practices as they care and support autistic individuals and their families regardless of geographic location. The intended audience for this ECHO is pediatricians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and residents. The ECHO launched on January 25 th and will continue to run through May 2024, on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 PM twice monthly.

### **The New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP) SEEDlings:**

The purpose of New Jersey SEEDlings is to transform the way pediatric primary care is delivered for the prenatal-to-five-year-old population who are eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, or are uninsured, by enhancing the capacity of NJ's early childhood workforce to deliver equitable, high quality early childhood development services that meet the needs of young children and their families. This ECHO will run from February 2024 through July 2024, once monthly for 60 minutes.

### **Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) /CHRISTUS Children's Hospital:**

The focus of BCM's new ECHO is to provide high quality care to individuals diagnosed with autism. Their audience includes developmental pediatricians, child psychologists, resource directors, parent advocates, and educators. This ECHO will run from February 2024 through July 2024, on Wednesdays from 12:00-1:30, twice monthly.