



REFLECTIONS

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JULY 2024 ISSUE

ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES: ADVANCED DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM

This month, we are highlighting the ECHO Autism Communities: Advanced Diagnosis program. This program aims to bring knowledge of best practice care to psychologists.

What is ECHO Autism: Advanced Diagnosis?

ECHO Autism: Advanced Diagnosis is a virtual learning program intended to increase local access to high quality, more complex, ASD diagnostic evaluations. Participants of this program gain knowledge, self-efficacy, and skill in autism best practices for evaluation of symptoms and how to provide high quality care to autistic individuals across the life span.

Participation in this program is suited for psychologists, physician diagnosticians, and other clinicians who offer comprehensive diagnostic autism evaluations for people suspected of being on the autism spectrum and others who want to learn and share best practices.

This program is spearheaded by an interdisciplinary panel of leading experts in the autism field. The hub team consists of a clinical psychologist and certified ADOS-2 Trainer, Pediatrician, Social Worker, Family Advocate and Autistic Self-Advocate.

Participants can expect to learn best practices and expand their knowledge of and ability to deliver gold-standard autism diagnostic evaluations. Participants can discuss cases with experts, get real-time guidance, and ask questions.

ECHO Autism: Advanced Diagnosis meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 11:45 am– 1:15 pm CT. Join ECHO Autism: Advanced Diagnosis [HERE](#).



2024 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

We're thrilled to share highlights from our participation at the prestigious 2024 International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) meeting in Melbourne, Australia! Our team, led by Kristin Sohl, presented several research outcomes focusing on improving access to quality autism care and training around the globe.



With nine posters and presentations, we addressed critical issues for the autism community: barriers and challenges faced by professionals, particularly in Latin America; research on the global expansion and impact of the ECHO Autism model, showcasing specific program results that improve self-efficacy in addressing the needs of autistic individuals and the community. These presentations sparked valuable conversations and collaborations, inspiring us to keep moving forward.

Beyond research, we hosted a dynamic Special Interest Group titled "Reducing Disparities in Autism Services". Bringing together participants from nine different countries, we had a lively discussion on common barriers and explored solutions using the ECHO Autism model. This marked the first time we hosted an in-person ECHO Autism session, and it felt great to connect with so many colleagues from around the world.

To celebrate our global community, we hosted a memorable social event with nearly 40 ECHO Autism members. The evening fostered connections and shared purpose, and it was amazing getting to know so many friends in person for the first time. We



plan to make it a yearly thing, so we'd love to see you at INSAR 2025 in Seattle.

We're incredibly proud of our team's and our global partners' contributions. As we continue to grow, we remain dedicated to our mission of improving autism care and reducing disparities through collaboration, innovation, and dedication.

ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES STAT EARLY DIAGNOSTIC MODEL: 2024 STAT INSTRUMENT TRAINING

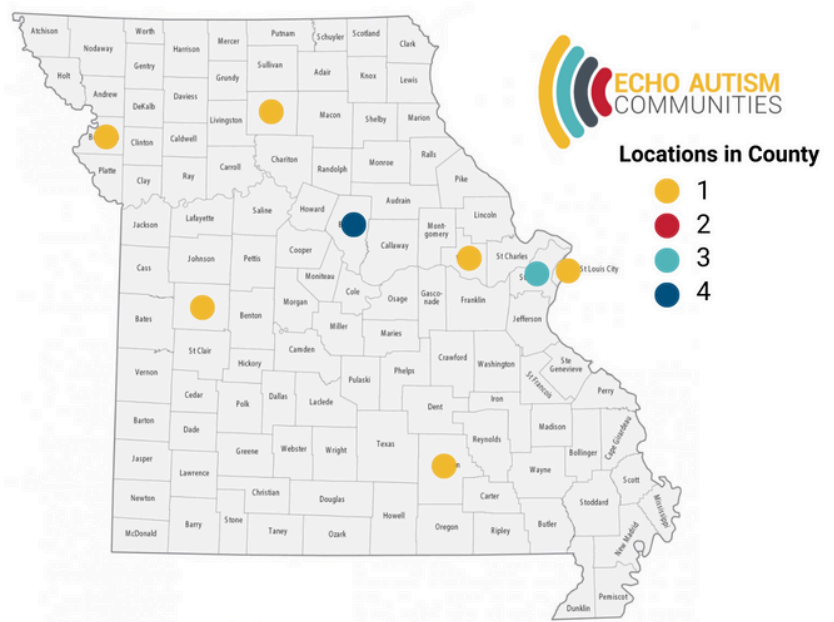


Our mission is to democratize expertise and disseminate best practices, to mentor and guide communities of clinicians, educators, and advocates, creating local expertise and increasing access for autistic people and their families.

Last month, 13 Primary Care Physicians and Practitioners (PCPs) from across Missouri attended our 2-day ECHO Autism STAT instrument training in Columbia, Missouri. The Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers is a structured behavioral observation validated to identify children between 14 and 48 months of age with characteristics of autism.

The STAT instrument provides PCPs with a standardized clinical observation of the social-communicative and play characteristics seen in children on the autism spectrum. This training serves as the foundation for building the clinical expertise necessary for PCPs to diagnose autism in young children with clear characteristics of autism. When utilized in conjunction with a comprehensive diagnostic interview, a developmental screener such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, and DSM-5 diagnostic criteria, ECHO Autism Early Diagnosis trained clinicians have demonstrated the ability to provide accurate, early diagnoses of ASD.

We are thrilled that 13 additional PCPs are partnering with us to increase access to best practice autism care and diagnostic expertise for families and children across the State of Missouri. The map to the right shows the practice locations of our new ECHO Autism STAT Early Diagnostic Model program participants.



2024 ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM ON DEMAND

The 2024 ECHO Autism Communities Symposium Presentations are available on our website! Watch them [HERE](#).

“Sincerely, Your Autistic Child” Amplifying Perspectives Across the Lifespan and Across the Spectrum // *Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, PhD*

Equitable Access to Global Autism Evaluations // *Catherine Lord, PhD, Somer Bishop, PhD, Valeria Nanclares, PsyD and Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, MD*

Neurodiversity // *Maya Moody, DO*

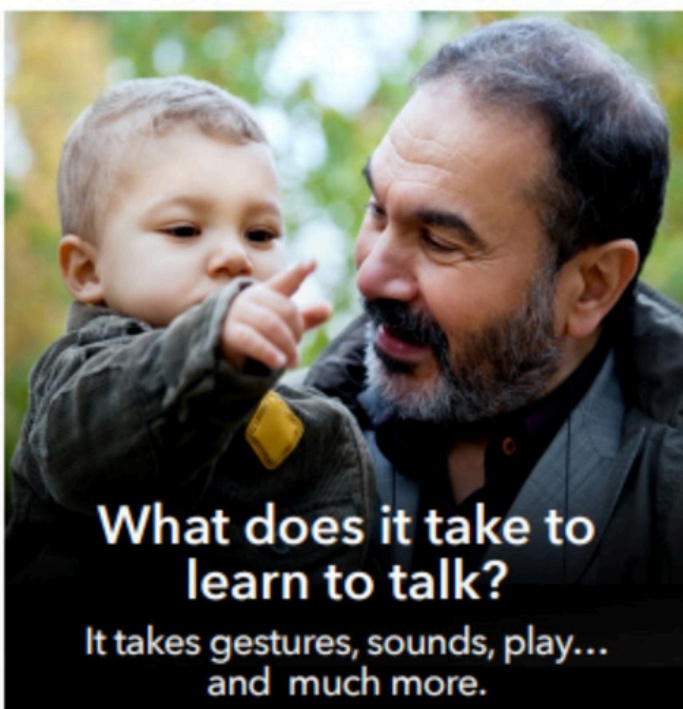
Behavior As Communication // *Rena Sorensen, PhD*

Listen to the Spectrum: See Possibilities in All Abilities // *Stephen Shore, EdD, Arielle Speer, LICSW, Kris Guin, Nicole Noblet*

Autism and Trauma // *Jamie Scaccia, PsyD*

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