

BACKGROUND

ASD-Description

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a **neurodevelopmental disorder** characterized by impairments of social interactions with restrictive and repetitive behaviors, activities and interests.
- Symptoms start early in childhood, and can **disrupt daily functioning** (APA, 2013).
- 1 in 59 children have ASD in the USA (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019), but studies conducted in the last 50 years have shown its **worldwide prevalence increasing** (World Health Organization, 2019).
- Children whose language is not English face a barrier for ASD identification (CDC, 2019).
- Recent studies have shown that early detection of ASD can be difficult for **Hispanics**, since they are **diagnosed at a lower rate**. For example, one barrier for early identification parents face is **difficulty understanding providers** (Zuckerman, Mattox, Donelan, & Oyundari, 2013).
- Lack of a timely diagnosis can delay treatment (Jo, Schieve, Rice, Yeargin-Allsopp, Tian, Blumberg, Kogan, & Boyle, 2015). For children with ASD, starting **intervention as early as possible can improve their future outcomes** (Eapen, Črnčec, & Walter, 2013)
- Our population in the main cities in the lower Rio Grande region (Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen) has a Hispanic majority with **English not being the main language in the home**. Furthermore, more than half of this population’s language is Spanish (United States Census Bureau, 2017). Because of this, and the need for caregivers to have clear communication with practitioners, the use of **screening tools in Spanish can be a great asset to be used for early diagnosis** and thus enable families to start working on **early intervention**..

SCREENING TOOLS

Instrument	Author	Description	Age
M-CHAT R/F	D. Robins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered and scored as part of a well child care visit Assess risk for ASD Maximize sensitivity, meaning to detect as many ASD cases as possible 20 questions about a child's behavior Can be done online with further instructions and resources for further action If child fails 2 or more critical items, follow up interview takes place A more detailed set of 23 questions is given by telephone The results of this primary interview will allow you to decipher if further evaluation may be needed to diminish false positives Most screen-positive cases warrant evaluation and referral for early intervention Widespread implementation of universal screening can lower the age of ASD diagnosis by 2 years (Robins et al., 2014) Compared with recent surveillance findings, increasing time available for early intervention 	16 - 30 mos.
SRS	J. Constantino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64 item scale utilized to scan and measure the severity of symptoms of ASD Screen for various deficits in social skills such as social information processing and social communication Screens for addition to key ASD traits To be completed by a parent or teacher (or both) Approximate time of completion is 20 minutes SRS can screen for mild, moderate, severe, and NON-ASD scores 	2 >
SCQ	M. Rutter, A. Bailey and C. Lord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool to identify Autism Spectrum Disorder in children 40-item parent-report measure based on the Autism Diagnostic Interview–Revised (ADI–R: Rutter et al., 2003b). Each item requires “yes”/ “no” response from the caregiver, indicating the presence/ absence of a given behavior. Two versions of the SCQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lifetime behavior current behaviors 	4-15 y/o

RESOURCES

Studies have shown Hispanic children receive fewer services (de Vinck-Baroody, Nicoletti, Roxas, Andrews, Nyirenda, & Huron, 2016). One of the goals of the BeChildLab is to bring awareness of services available to the community.

If you or a loved has a child or relative demonstrating traits of ASD or has been diagnosed with ASD you can access the resources below. Support from the local community, local authorities, and national organizations are available for you and your family.

Autism Speaks (Website: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>)

Dedicated to promote solutions for individuals living with ASD, by targeting needs. They offer grants for research, and promote Early Childhood Screening and Intervention

International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) (Website: <https://www.autism-insar.org/>)

Scientific and professional organization interested in promoting knowledge about ASD. Grants and fellowships are offered.

Mchat webpage (Website: <https://m-chat.org/>)

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) is a validated developmental screening tool for toddlers between 16 and 30 months of age. It is designed to identify children who may benefit from a more thorough developmental and autism evaluation.
[It is free and screening can be done online!](#)

BeChildLab (Website under review, N.A. yet)

[Local resources](#)

BlueSprig (Brownsville, Harlingen, & McAllen)

Clinic in the South Texas area
ABA therapy services
Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)
Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs)
Offers social skills as well as parent training.

UT Health RGV Pediatric Specialty (Edinburg Clinic)

Offers specialty on developmental and behavioral pediatrics
Provide ADOS-2 assessment

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST