The University of Maine DigitalCommons@UMaine

Poster Presentations

Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

4-2017

Reaching Local Community with the Message of Developmental Milestones and Early Identification of Autism

Hope M. Duncanson University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ccids_posters Part of the <u>Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons</u>, <u>Early Childhood Education</u> <u>Commons</u>, and the <u>Social Work Commons</u>

Recommended Citation

Duncanson, H. (2017, April). Reaching local community with the message of developmental milestones and early identification of Autism. (PDF). Poster presented at the 2017 University of Maine Student Symposium: Research & Creative Activity. Bangor, ME.

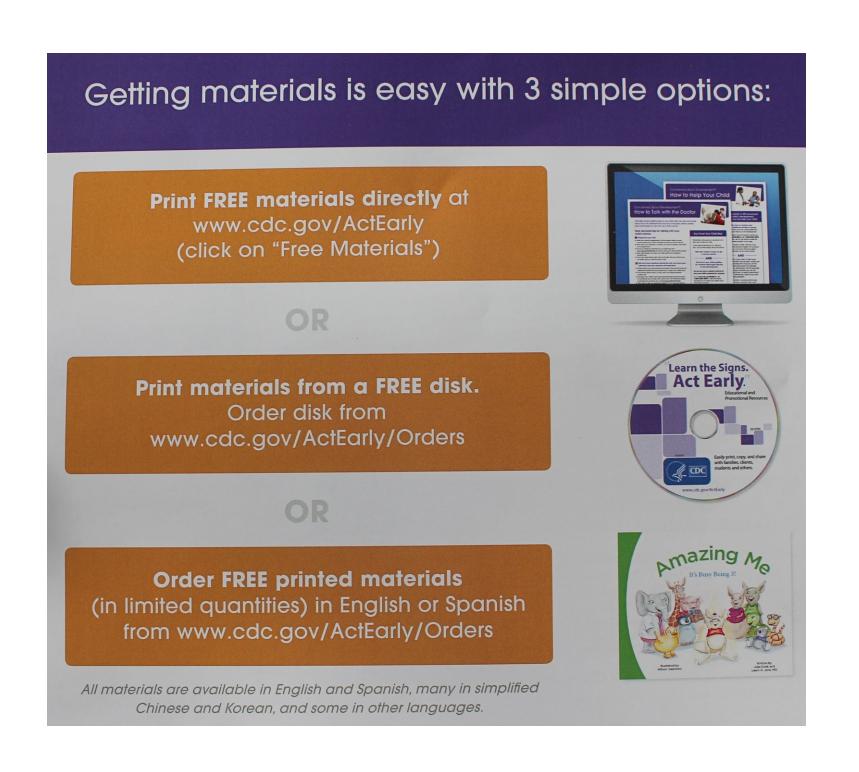
This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Poster Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



Reaching Local Community with the Message of Developmental Milestones and Early Identification of Autism

INTRODUCTION

As part of my leadership project in NH-ME LEND, I worked with the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (Maine DDC) to share the Learn the Signs, Act Early material with the Gray-New Gloucester community. The Maine DDC is an organization that aims to foster advocacy and increase public awareness about disabilities, decreasing the barriers for people with disabilities. The Learn the Signs materials were created with the objective of educating families, medical professionals and child care providers about childhood developmental milestones and the early signs of autism. This relates to the mission of LEND by addressing the Maternal Child Health (MCH) populations and the desire to diagnose delays and identify needs of children early in development.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

I was able to get a better grasp on how to network and also gained confidence in speaking with others about the importance of early detection. I was able to use my knowledge base and share it with others to better impact the lives of families and children and also help child care facilities communicate with the MCH populations. I also gained a working knowledge of how to collaborate with other professionals in the field and distribute information in a manner that opens the door for conversation and education about important issues.



Hope M. Duncanson/Dr. Alan Kurtz, Faculty Mentor New Hampshire-Maine Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Trainee Program (NH-ME LEND)





ACT EARLY MATERIALS

- Inform parents, caregivers and medical professionals of developmental milestones
- Provide visual supports to help guide and educate

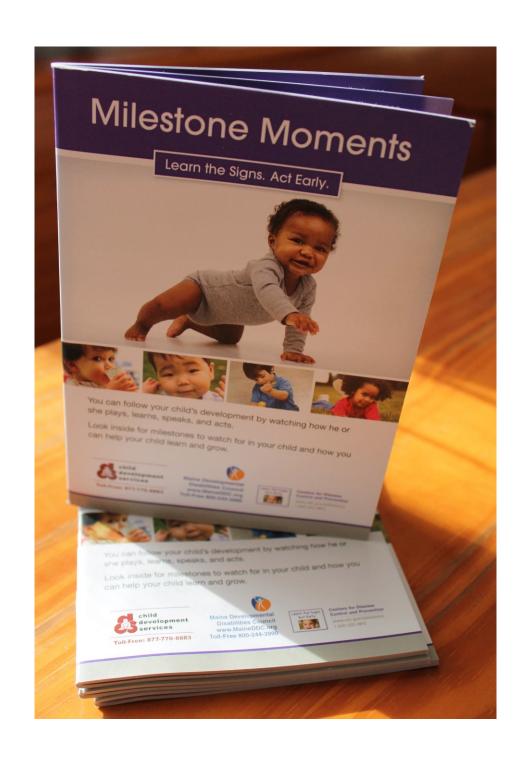
- Provides training modules and videos for interactive learning

- Gloucester community.
- Organize materials into packets for distribution.
- Distribute materials to local child care and preschool facilities.
- Engage in conversations with directors and staff to explain the materials and the benefits of using them in their facilities.
- Educate directors that Learn the Signs, Act Early offers free trainings for staff, including continuing education credits (CEUs) at no cost.
- **Compile research questionnaire to gain feedback from directors.** \bullet

I found that center directors were very interested in the materials provided to them and they were excited about sharing them with families. Directors reported that they were able to share the information with their staff and appreciated that there were free CEUs available. The materials also gave staff talking points and examples to use in helping parents understand whether they need to follow up on concerns that may have about their children's development. I feel that given more time with the materials, center employees would be able to aid in the process of early identification of delays.

• Provide child care workers tips on how to approach red flags with parents of children

• Provide Continuing Education Credits for medical professionals and child care workers • Provide organized forms for parents to track child's development and medical screenings







PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Pilot a program for effectively distributing Learn the Signs, Act Early materials, starting with a small study group in the Gray-New

RESULTS

