

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Dyspraxia
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider

www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com

Parents Often Miss Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

Parental concern ranks as a major indicator for risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Multiple studies encompassing 737 children show that parental concerns about speech, language, social skills, or other developmental arenas prove highly sensitive (75% to 83%) and specific (79% to 81%) in detecting global developmental deficits.¹⁻³ However, the absence of parental concern is not specific enough in assessing normal development (47%).¹ In other words, parents often miss signs of autism spectrum disorder in their young children, but when they do report signs of ASD the concerns are usually justified. This highlights the importance of childcare professionals using regular screening tools on a schedule rather than waiting for parental concern to initiate assessment procedures.

Historically, parents of children later diagnosed with ASD express concerns between 18 months and 4 years of age.^{4,5} However, retrospective studies of home videos showing children later diagnosed with ASD reveal that significant deviations in development (such as eye contact, responding to name, pointing, and showing) were evident by 12 months of age.^{6,7}

Early identification of developmental delays is important in ASD for two reasons. One reason is that younger siblings of children with ASD have a 10% to 20% chance of having ASD as well.⁸⁻¹⁰ Parents should have the opportunity to consider this information before deciding to have another child. The other reason is that **a growing body of evidence supports the consensus that intensive intervention with very young children can make a significant, positive impact on long-term outcomes of autism spectrum disorder.**¹¹⁻¹⁹

In the Durham/Chapel Hill area, TEACCH is often the referral source of choice for diagnosis of autism. A simultaneous referral for occupational and/or speech therapy is often indicated. Occupational and speech therapy are essential components of an effective intervention program for most children with ASD. **When developmental delay is suspected, children can benefit from pediatric OT and ST even prior to an official ASD diagnosis.**

The therapists at **Emerge - A Child's Place** have specific experience working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Emerge therapists have received continuing education in Floortime Intervention. Developed by Stanley Greenspan, MD, Floortime provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and treating children challenged by autism spectrum and related disorders. It focuses on helping children master the building blocks of relating, communicating, and thinking, rather than focusing on symptoms alone. The therapists at Emerge truly tailor programs to the individual needs of both the child and his or her family. Emerge involves parents in therapy sessions and gives them guidance and support for implementing therapy strategies at home.



Parents often miss signs of ASD, and when they do report concerns, they often report them later than the ideal timing.



Please tell parents about Emerge- A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish

Emerge - The Place Children Prefer

At Emerge, children find spacious rooms, large windows, colorful surroundings, and lots of toys and playful equipment. In general, Emerge is a place children like at first sight and look forward to visiting again. Important therapy has never been so much fun.

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