What to do after a positive autism screen.
A guide for pediatric providers.

Early Intervention is key, and you can make a difference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Developmental outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>![Developmental outcomes chart] *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>![Developmental outcomes chart]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families may feel hesitant about an autism diagnosis. Provide reassurance that it is less about the label and more about understanding their child's unique needs to promote their success.

ABA therapy is a treatment that meets children's individual needs and builds their capacity. Patient access to ABA therapy is insurance-dependent. Proceed with step #1, below, to start the process for families.

Next steps to implement:

1. **Check Insurance**
   - All insurance with Medicaid in title: Ask family to call local community mental health (CMH) to request an autism evaluation.
   - BCBS, BGH: Refer to MDEG (<6 years), DBP, or Psychiatry (all ages), AND Speech Therapy
   - HAP, Aetna, Priority, or other: Ask family to call and ask what kind of autism evaluation is needed to receive ABA therapy.

2. **Speech therapy**
   - Children with autism often have difficulties using language in social communication.
   - Speech therapy provides opportunities to build these skills.

3. **Occupational therapy**
   - Children with autism may be hypersensitive to environmental stimuli.
   - Occupational therapy provides calming strategies when children feel overwhelmed by the world.

4. **School services**
   - Early On can provide in-home developmental services for those <3 years (referral 1800earlyon.org).
   - For school-aged children, ask family to request an IEP evaluation in writing through their local public school.

Still have questions? A great resource for providers and to share with families is the Autism Alliance of Michigan (aaomi.org). With family's permission, you can also send an email to navigator@aaomi.org who can help families navigate this complex system.

Developmental outcome data based on Mullen, from the Early Start Denver Model Study by Geraldine Dawson, PhD et al. 2006.