Changing Developmental Trajectories of Toddlers with ASD: Strategies for Bridging Research to Practice

FACULTY

Amy M. Wetherby, PhD, CCC-SLP, is a Distinguished Research Professor in Clinical Sciences, the Laurel Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders, and director of the Autism Institute in the Florida State University College of Medicine. She has more than 35 years of clinical experience and is an ASHA Fellow. Wetherby has published extensively on early detection and early intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), presents regularly at national conventions, and served on the DSM-5 Neurodevelopmental Workgroup. She is director of the FIRST WORDS Project, a longitudinal research investigation on early detection of communication disorders and ASD. She has co-directed clinical trials testing the efficacy of teaching parents of toddlers with ASD how to embed evidence-based strategies into everyday activities. Wetherby is co-developer of Autism Navigator, a collection of online courses and tools using extensive video footage. She is PI on a new ACE Network to study individual and combined effects of engaging and coaching families by infusing mobile technology of Autism Navigator and using family navigators in real-world settings. The overarching goal of her research is to build the capacity of health care systems to improve early detection and provide access to cost-efficient, community-viable early intervention.

Financial Disclosures

- Distinguished Research Professor in Clinical Sciences, the Laurel Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders, and director of the Autism Institute in the Florida State University College of Medicine
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- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures

- Co-developer and member of Autism Navigator, LLC
Juliiann J. Woods, PhD, CCC-SLP, is a professor in the School of Communication Science and Disorders, Associate Dean of Research for the College of Communication and Information, and Associate Director of Research to Practice at the Autism Institute. She is co-developer of Autism Navigator and an investigator on an ACE Network to study individual and combined effects of engaging and coaching families by infusing mobile technology of Autism Navigator. She has more than 40 years of clinical experience, research, and teaching in early communication intervention for young children and their families, and is an ASHA Fellow and past-president of the Division of Early Childhood. She has more than 50 externally funded research, training, and demonstration grants, many using implementation science frameworks and technology to integrate practice change in community settings. Woods publishes and presents at national conferences on early communication and intervention for young children and their families and the use of technology for coaching and professional development. In addition to her affiliation with the Autism Institute, she is the director of the Communication and Early Childhood - Research to Practice Center (http://cec-rap.fsu.edu), which is designed to facilitate access of resources for early childhood educators, program administrators, and interdisciplinary teams.

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