

Children's Health Minute
"Autism Awareness"

Air Dates: Week of April 2, 2007

Dr. Hellerstedt: April is Autism Awareness Month. Here's what you need to know.

Hi, I'm Dr. John Hellerstedt with the Children's Health Minute -- connecting families with Children's Medicaid and CHIP.

Autism causes kids to experience the world differently from the way most other kids do. It's hard for children with autism to use words and talk to other people.

The number of diagnosed cases of autism has increased over the past ten years, though scientists aren't sure why.

Be sure to alert your doctor if you notice if the child:

- * Does not follow moving objects with the eyes by 3 months of age
- * Does not say single words, like "mamma" or "dada" by 12 months of age.
- * Does not say two-word sentences by 24 months of age, or
- * Loses any social, language or motor skill he or she once had.

Announcer: Keep your kids healthy. Call toll-free 1-877-KIDS NOW to apply or when it's time to renew your CHIP or Children's Medicaid. Six months of coverage for all your children costs just 50 dollars or less, but most families pay little or nothing. That's 1-877-KIDS NOW.