

Care for children with developmental disorders in US

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National policies in the past 50 years guarantee appropriate evidence-based diagnostic, management and educational programs for children with developmental disorders (DD). The care for children with DDs in the US varies significantly among the 50 states with regard to the extent of services, availability of trained professionals and funding. Primary care pediatricians routinely screen for autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD, learning disabilities and delay in motor, language and social development using validated questionnaires with the goal of early diagnosis and referral. The diagnostic process, treatments and educational opportunities for children with autistic spectrum disorder and ADHD will be described.

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Dr. Martin Stein was educated at the University of California Berkeley (AB History) and the University of California Irvine (MD). He received his pediatric training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Stein has been a clinician and educator in the Department of Pediatrics and the University of California San Diego School of Medicine since 1975. He directed the Division of General Pediatrics and the faculty practice. Dr. Stein has received numerous teaching awards from medical students and residents in pediatrics and family medicine. While serving as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, Dr. Stein edited the Academy's Guidelines for Health Supervision III. His major academic interest has been the development of methods to incorporate concepts about child development and behavioral pediatrics into educational models and the practice of primary care pediatrics. He co-authored the book, Encounters with Children: Pediatric Behavior and Development (4th edition). He is the section editor for "challenging cases" in the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics; these cases were selected for publication in 3 supplements to Pediatrics. Dr. Stein is a past-president of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and co-chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics committee that developed the Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of ADHD. Dr. Stein is a recipient of the C. Anderson Aldrich Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for his contributions in the field of child development. He continues to have an active practice and teaches in both general pediatrics and developmental-behavioral pediatrics at the University of California San Diego and the Rady Children's Hospital San Diego in the Division of Academic General Pediatrics, Child Developmental and Community Health.