

## SPOTTED

# Spotted around the web: Autism screener, ABA conflicts of interest, baby sibs

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28 MAY 2021

WEEK OF MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

## Research roundup

- Assessments that use a naturalistic setting to evaluate social-communication skills are more sensitive than standardized assessments for children with subclinical autism traits. *Autism Research*
- Children with autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder can comfortably wear a face mask throughout a school day. *JAMA Network Open*
- Infants with autistic siblings appear to have sensory hypo-responsiveness. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*
- People with variants of the TCF7L2 gene have developmental delays and an elevated chance of being diagnosed with autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *American Journal of Medical Genetics*
- Field testing suggests that a new tool that uses parent reports can accurately screen for autism in 1- to 3-year-old children. *Autism*
- People with variants in the SLC6A1 gene often have developmental delay, autism, seizures or language problems, according to a new analysis of Simons Searchlight participants. (Simons Searchlight is funded by Simons Foundation, *Spectrum's* parent organization.) *Journal of Medical Genetics*
- Researchers adapted the Social Responsiveness Scale, a measure of autism traits, for **study in monkeys** last year, as *Spectrum* reported, and now have validated its use in juvenile macaques. *PLOS One*
- Authors of studies on applied behavior analysis (ABA), a **widely used autism therapy**, frequently have conflicts of interest — they're clinical ABA providers or consultants — yet they **rarely report these potential biases**, an issue *Spectrum* highlighted last year. *Frontiers in Psychology*
- Toddlers with autistic siblings tend to have more intense interests than those with non-autistic siblings. *Autism Research*

## Science and society

- A new report estimates that research and industry involving human genetics contribute \$265 billion to the U.S. economy each year. **American Society of Human Genetics**
  - A bipartisan group of U.S. legislators is calling for increased spending on autism to support research, monitoring and services. **Disability Scoop**
  - A comic-book series called “Jake Jetpulse” was inspired by the drawings of Jake Bradshaw, an autistic boy whose father is a cartoonist. **Today**
  - The health insurance company for the U.S. military, Tricare, has limited its coverage of ABA in school settings. **ABC 11**
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