Today’s piece was prepared by Rebecca Asp, MD, addressing an NBC article [Black, Latino Kids Less Likely to Get Early Help for Developmental Delays, Study Finds](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/black-latino-kids-less-likely-get-early-help-developmental-delays-n811141)

This article discusses [a recent publication in Pediatrics](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__pediatrics.aappublications.org_content_early_2017_10_12_peds.2017-2D2059&d=DwMFaQ&c=aBkXpkKi7gN5fe5MqrMaN-VmRugaRb1IDRfSv2xVRy0&r=L48YIMzyWGAOEF5VWSIuGXLVS7_4HcogAM2Uyc84KeE&m=f8lmIJSSr7UJvciYBRRQRrYUGP2wzryFPDnkEy2irbk&s=CurXLMINbGkCiIovZ-iHVe9bWGdFBGGUl31QON6HS1w&e=) that aimed to identify beliefs Hispanic and African American mothers of developmentally delayed children have regarding developmental and early intervention services. These populations were the focus of this study as recent publications have identified that Black and Latino children are less likely than their White peers to receive needed developmental services. Several themes were identified including beliefs that their child was not developmentally delayed or that they would develop on their own time. Further, families felt that they had limited or conflicting information. The article also provided a brief commentary on the value families can place on social media, mentioning the benefits but failing to acknowledge the dangers.

Fortunately, the article did emphasize the value of provider-parent partnership regarding treatment decision-making. But the article failed to address why there is a persistent lack of information and clarity between providers and parents, which these families have identified as a barrier. Undoubtedly, we should partner together to find treatment options, but we cannot address treatment options if families do not believe there is something worth treating. Several of these themes should incite a call to action, for both providers and parents. Providers have a unique opportunity to advocate for their patients by empathetically and patiently seeking out the beliefs families have regarding their children, their understanding around the diagnosis, and their barriers to care. For families, this is a call to vocalize beliefs and understanding, demand clarification of provider assessments, and hold the medical community accountable for their role in caring for your family. Overall, this article has value in raising awareness regarding limitations in treatment utilization but awareness is only valuable if it results in action.

**RESOURCES ON EARLY INTERVENTION & INTER-CULTURAL SUPPORT:**

[Early Intervention: **Video**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoaFNGmSU5U)  *Quick video introducing early intervention programs and their impact on children.*

[Zero To Three](https://www.zerotothree.org/) *A resource that includes topics on learning and development as well as resources for intervention.*

[Open Doors for Multicultural Families](http://multiculturalfamilies.org/) *A non-profit focusing on helping all families have equal opportunities for access to resources and information for children with DD*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!