

SPOTTED

Spotted around the web: Depression risk, COVID-19 during pregnancy, lab supply shortages

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Research roundup

- Children with autism appear to have different patterns of tactile sensitivities than children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *Communications Biology*
- To communicate effectively with autistic children, physicians may need to get creative — and even use cartoon drawings, as this case study describes. *Case Reports in Psychiatry*
- Adolescents with autism report negative emotions after certain social interactions, which could be a key risk factor for depression in this population. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Adding easy-to-measure biomarkers to autism screening could aid early diagnosis, lowering the lifetime costs of special education and healthcare services. *Autism Research*
- Sensory issues in people with activity dependent neuroprotective protein syndrome do not necessarily indicate autism. *Genes*
- Primary-care physicians and parents often hold differing views about a child's development; improved communication between them may enhance early diagnosis of autism. *The Journal of Pediatrics*
- Brain imaging measures of reward, inhibition and emotion regulation may reveal latent profiles linked to neurodevelopmental conditions. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*
- The disruptions people with autism have experienced during the coronavirus pandemic highlight the need for support services to prepare for future emergencies. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Occupational therapists can help dentists adapt their environments and procedures to better care for autistic children. *International Journal of Environmental Research and*

Public Health

- Parents stressed by caring for their autistic child may rate problem behaviors differently than clinicians would. **Autism**
- Bilingual children on the spectrum show similar progression in language development as those who speak only one language. **Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders**

Science and society

- An 11-year-old autistic boy in Colorado was detained for hours, handcuffed and alone, after poking a classmate with a pencil; the boy's mother has filed a federal lawsuit. **WCAX**
 - The Biden administration has appointed disability advocate Kimberly Knackstedt as disability policy director. **Time**
 - Pregnant women have faced much uncertainty about the risks of COVID-19 and vaccines against the disease, though vaccine trials are beginning to include them. **Nature**
 - A new proposal to standardize reporting of polygenic risk scores, which includes 22 elements, could make such data more useful to other researchers and clinicians. **The Scientist**
 - The coronavirus pandemic has caused a shortage of lab supplies, including gloves, pipette tips and some animals. **Nature**
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