

# Culturally informed parent education programs can help Latinx families raising children with Autism

Latinx children with autism are diagnosed later and receive fewer services than their non-Latinx counterparts. This occurs due to several challenges faced by families:



Language barriers



Lack of social capital to navigate services



Lack of education around autism



Potential bias of pediatricians around diagnoses



Immigration status

The care that families receive is often perceived by parents as inappropriate or of poor quality. This may be due to several factors, including a lack of cultural and linguistic competence of service providers.

Culturally-centered parent education programs can have positive outcomes for parents and children when programs:

- Are designed in ways that overcome language barriers and provide education around advocacy and autism.
- Are flexible and emphasize partnerships with consumers and families.
- Include cultural peers (promotoras) who are well-informed about the system and can help families overcome fears around immigration issues and develop trust with their human service professionals.
- Can teach parents ways to improve their child's communication, socialization, play and behavior. This may improve the quality of life for the child and family.
- Takes unique needs and obstacles into account and engages the community to find solutions.

