When Concerns Exist Regarding Possible Autism: Talking Points with Parents

When considering talking to a family about your concerns regarding their child’s behavior and possible autism, it’s important to remember the benefits of a medical diagnosis and how it can help their child. Here are a few points to remember:

1. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex disorder that can sometimes involve other health, developmental, neurological, and genetic conditions. A pediatrician will always consult with your families on the child’s eating, sleeping, and activity level. They will ask for a history of possible staring spells or seizures and will recommend genetic testing.

2. Additional support for early identification of ASD comes from a growing body of evidence suggesting improved outcomes for most and dramatic response to intervention for some children with characteristics of autism.

3. Talking with parents about your concerns demonstrates your knowledge of ASD, which will make it more likely parents will turn to you for guidance and support in the future.

4. Finally, there are some resources and services that are only available to children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. In Kansas, some home-based services are covered by Medicaid and there is an autism waiver program available to young children under the age of 6. It is strongly encouraged to sign children up as early as possible. In addition as our children get older they may need adult-based services or ADA services in a higher education setting. These types of services will require a medial diagnosis.