



CHRIS  
NEWSLETTER

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C O M M E N T S

## AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH AGENDA FOR CHRIS

*Keith Scott*

We know little about what causes most birth defects and developmental disabilities. Information that can lead to prevention as well as better treatment and intervention is only available for a few conditions. For instance, the causes of only about 30% of birth defects are known.

In 2000 Congress passed legislation, with bipartisan support, to create The National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). NCBDDD is the eighth center at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. It became a reality in April of 2001 and represents a major expansion of effort in the areas of birth defects and developmental disabilities.

One of the main concerns of the CDC/NCBDD is the large increase in the number of cases of Autism Spectrum Disorder being reported. Some of this increase is due to improvements in early

diagnosis, but this may not be the whole story. Autism is an important initial priority with CDC where the overall goal is to identify the causes of and treatments for all developmental problems. In response to this concern, the CDC/NCBDDD has selected a network of researchers in 9 states in an attempt to identify all cases of autism in those regions. In October of this year the CDC/NCBDDD in a cooperative agreement, made the University of Miami a center for the study of autism and other developmental disabilities.

CHRIS will be an important tool in our effort to identify all children with autism in the state of Florida. For many children, the CHRIS records document a child's first contact with a provider as well as the child's path to diagnosis and intervention. Utilization of the CHRIS data has already begun. Recently, we were investigating how developmental problems are first identified and reported to Child Find. Unfortunately we were

not able answer this question very well because the critical field in the CHRIS database (awareness source) is often left blank. Another question we plan to address is "Are there some areas in Florida where there are unusual clusters of developmental disabilities, including autism?" Critical fields for this question will include the child's birth place, county of residence, and primary exceptionality. To answer these and other questions in the hunt for clues to the causes of developmental disabilities we need your help in completing as many of the CHRIS fields as possible.

*Keith Scott is the Principle Investigator of the CHRIS Project.*

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# E-mail Etiquette

As you may have noticed, e-mail has become an increasingly common method of communication. CHRIS staff currently use e-mail to inform users of the following:

- CHRIS Program Updates
- Quarterly Backup Reminders
- Training Information
- CHRIS Points Program Notices
- Software Specials



If you have not been receiving these e-mails, please send us your correct e-mail address so we can update our records.

Along with the increased use of e-mail comes the misuse of e-mail. As a result, e-mail etiquette has become a necessity. Here are some e-mail etiquette tips from the CHRIS staff:

**Use BCCs (Blind Carbon Copies) when addressing a message that will go to a large group of people who don't necessarily know each other.**

Just as it is not polite to give out a person's telephone number without his or her knowledge, it is not polite to give out someone's e-mail address. For instance, when you send an e-mail message to 30 people and use To or CC, all 30 people see each other's e-mail addresses. By using BCC, each recipient sees only two, his or hers and yours.

**Always enter a subject.**

Using the subject helps the receiver sort through his or her e-mail faster and gives every e-mail the attention it requires.

**Avoid using all capital letters.**

USING ALL CAPS MAKES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!  
IT'S ALSO MORE DIFFICULT TO READ.



If you have a favorite e-mail tip, please send it to [chris.um@miami.edu](mailto:chris.um@miami.edu). If we publish it in the next CHRIS Comments, you will receive a CHRIS point.



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CHRIS Comments  
Newsletter Schedule for 2002-2003  
August, November, February, May

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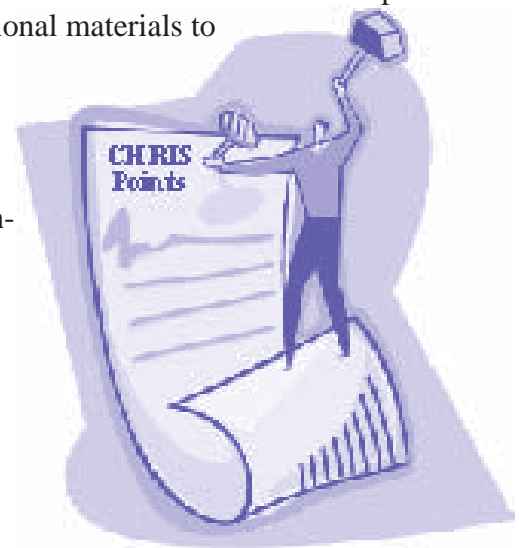
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# CHRIS POINTS PROGRAM 2001-2002

The CHRIS Points Program was created to promote the use of CHRIS and to encourage users to give feedback about the CHRIS program. Each year we acknowledge our top Sites and Individual Users for their performance. Outstanding sites and users are awarded with CHRIS promotional materials to heighten awareness of the usefulness of the CHRIS program.

This year we are pleased to report that we have seen an increase in participation in the Site Points Program. The CHRIS Points Program calendar year begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Throughout the year we provide our users and sites with opportunities to earn points. We invite all of our CHRIS users to become active members of the CHRIS Points Program for 2002-2003. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for participating in the CHRIS Points Program!

Aimee Astte,  
CHRIS Points Commissioner



## CHRIS POINTS PROGRAM PRIZE PATROL 2001-2002

### Individual Points Program

The individual CHRIS Points Program was open to any CHRIS user. CHRIS promotional materials were sent to the DBA of each site for distribution to the participating users.

#### Top Individual Point Achievers

Name	FDLRS Associate Center	Points
Carol Tarkowski	Big Cypress	5
Ashley Anderson	Miccosukee	4
Debbie Wagner	Galaxy	4
Jan McLain	NEFEC	4
Mary Lou Kelly	Westgate	4
Tracy Carter	Heartland	3
Cherry Shatzer	Hillsborough	3
Betsy Stephens	Miccosukee	3

### Site Points Program

The Site CHRIS Points Program was a group effort and was open to all locations that have a CHRIS database. High scoring CHRIS sites received a CHRIS Promotional Basket containing office items.

#### Site CHRIS Point Winners

FDLRS Associate Center	Points
Miccosukee Associate Center, Wakulla	27
Galaxy Associate Center, St. Lucie	25
South Associate Center, Dade	23
Springs Associate Center	23

*For more information on CHRIS Points, Individual or Site, please see the CHRIS website: <http://www.chris.miami.edu>.*

**UPDATE**

**Total Number of Children Reported in CHRIS  
Who Will Turn 3 During the 2002-2003 School Year**

County	Total Children
No County ID	*
Alachua	105
Baker	18
Bay	115
Bradford	26
Brevard	211
Broward	1282
Calhoun	10
Charlotte	87
Citrus	28
Clay	69
Collier	294
Columbia	76
Dade	366
De Soto	19
Dixie	*
Duval	381

County	Total Children
Escambia	273
Flagler	39
Franklin	*
Gadsden	36
Gilchrist	16
Glades	*
Gulf	*
Hamilton	25
Hardee	*
Hendry	24
Hernando	32
Highlands	25
Hillsborough	443
Holmes	13
Indian River	34
Jackson	29
Jefferson	15

County	Total Children
Lafayette	*
Lake	26
Lee	463
Leon	129
Levy	32
Liberty	*
Madison	42
Manatee	272
Marion	184
Martin	33
Monroe	62
Nassau	26
Okaloosa	118
Okeechobee	*
Orange	276
Osceola	51
Palm Beach	542

County	Children
Pasco	146
Pinellas	291
Polk	97
Putnam	50
Santa Rosa	106
Sarasota	160
Seminole	69
St. Johns	59
St. Lucie	72
Sumter	*
Suwannee	42
Taylor	13
Union	*
Volusia	128
Wakulla	25
Walton	*
Washington	11

*\* Fewer than 10 children reported in this county.  
Data is based on August 2002 Master Database*

**Grand Total 7667**

660313



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