

The focus for AIR-B3 is on families with children with autism living in under-resourced communities who must navigate the complex world of evaluations, diagnoses, interventions and resources. Over the next 5 years, our AIR-B team will conduct research, develop tools, and disseminate information into the community.

We have proposed two research studies. We recognize that the process of screening, evaluation and treatment for children with autism can be long and arduous, especially for families in under-resourced settings. In our first study, *Mind the Gap*, we will try to explore the causes of this delay. We will then help facilitate the process of getting services and try to lessen the gap between identification and service access. This support will be provided in families' native languages and, through the use of phone and video technology, allowing busy families to access support on their own schedule.

Our second study, *Building Better Bridges*, will address the needs of children who are transitioning to new stages of schooling. Moving on from early intervention to elementary school, or subsequently from elementary to secondary school can be worrying and stressful to both children with autism and their parents. Through *Building Better Bridges*, we will tackle the obstacles complicating these transitions. Our research groups will work together to provide interventions that will help make the transitions a lot easier.

For both studies, we will work with local community partners, regional centers, school districts, and parents of children with ASD. Our AIR-B research partner, Healthy African American Families, a community based non-profit health agency led by Loretta Jones, CEO will help us design interventions that are culturally tailored and effective for the participants in each of our communities.

Our AIR-B 3 study is led by University researchers at UCLA (Connie Kasari, Sheryl Kataoka, Amanda Gulsrud), University of Pennsylvania (David Mandell, Melanie Pellecchia), University of Rochester (Tristram Smith, Suzanne Iadarola), Drexel University (Elizabeth McGhee-Hassrick) and UC Davis, Mind Institute (Aubyn Stahmer, Peter Mundy).