

ANGELMAN SYNDROME: INFORMATION FOR ALL

Walk-A-Thon: May 21, 2005 at 8:00a.m. at Adams County Fairgrounds (9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, Co. 80601). To Register: 1-800-432-6435 or www.angelman.org.

This is the first Angelman Syndrome Foundation walk to be hosted in the state of Colorado. Angelman Syndrome is a rare genetic syndrome that affects equally among races and gender. Currently it is believed that many Angelman children may actually be miss-diagnosed with other developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy and autism. Children born with this syndrome have an abnormality in chromosome 15.

Children with Angelman Syndrome typically receive a genetic diagnosis between the age of three and seven years. This is when the characteristic behaviors and features become most evident. However, many signs and symptoms will be observable between 6 - 12 months. Some characteristic behaviors at any age include; absent speech and language development,

absent or delayed physical development in rolling, crawling, sitting, and walking, difficulties in balance and coordinating muscle movements, increase in hyperactivity, easily excitable and frequently engages in laughter and smiling, seizures, poor sleep patterns, attraction/fascination with water, and increased sensitivity to heat. The appearance of child with Angelman Syndrome may be characterized by strabismus (deviation of one eye from the other), hypo-pigmented skin and eyes, tongue thrusting, drooling, suck and swallowing disorders, prominent lower jaw, wide mouth, wide spaced teeth, flat back of the head, and uplifted flexed arms.

with Angelman Syndrome need speech-language services, which may include oral-motor activities and alternate means of communication, occupational therapy, and physical therapy (Hippo Therapy). Early intervention services and medical intervention can greatly increase the level of functioning a child is able to achieve.



Tyler at 4 years of age.

My little "angel" Tyler was diagnosed at 16 months of age. I felt that something was wrong as early as 4 months,

however, when his seizures started at 13 months old his pediatrician agreed that further testing was warranted. I truly believe that his early interventions services in SLP, OT, PT, hippo therapy and preschool have made a dramatic difference in his ability levels. Each and every day we continue to challenge Tyler to develop new skills. In return each and every day he does not cease to amaze us (and his doctors) with the skills he has mastered. Tyler's Mom.

Information for this article was obtained for educational and informational purposes from the Angelman Syndrome Foundations Literature and websites. For more information on Angelman Syndrome please visit the Angelman website info@angelman.org or www.angelman.org