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Summary

We conducted a survey that included 27 developmental-behavioral pediatricians, 16 psychologists, and 12 parents to identify the most important research questions related to developmental and behavioral pediatrics. Initially each participant suggested up to 10 important research questions. The participants rated the importance of each question. There were 39 research questions rated as important by over half of the participants. Over half of these related to the effectiveness of medical, behavioral, or other types of interventions. Forty percent of the questions related to the etiology, diagnosis, or management of autism spectrum disorders. There were an additional 7 questions that more than 75% of the parents thought were important including question about how to best provide family support, facilitating effective transition to adulthood, detecting pain in children with disabilities, and the effectiveness of speech therapy.