

Macomb County Community Mental Health Michigan's New Medicaid and MICHild Autism Benefit



What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by a problem in the brain. Scientists do not know yet exactly what causes ASD. ASD can impact a person's functioning in different ways. People with ASD may have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. ASD begins during early childhood and lasts throughout a person's lifetime. A person with an ASD might:

- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Not point at objects to show interest by 14 months
- Not play "pretend" games by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- Have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Have delayed speech and language skills
- Repeat words or phrases over and over
- Give unrelated answers to questions
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have obsessive interests
- Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles
- Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

The State of Michigan now offers Applied Behavior analysis (ABA) Services to individuals who:

- Have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Aspergers, or Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD-NOS) Diagnosis
- Are 18 months to 5 years old
- Are Medicaid or MICHild Eligible

What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

ABA is an intensive, behaviorally-based treatment that uses various techniques to bring about meaningful and positive changes in the communication, social interaction, and repetitive/restrictive behaviors that are typical of ASD. Each child will have an individualized Behavior Intervention Plan that breaks down desired skills into manageable steps to be taught. Each ABA Plan is designed for the individualized needs of each child and will include an average of 5 to 20 hours of direct interventions per week. These services are intensive and can be provided either in the home or in a clinic setting. ABA interventions involve parent/guardian participation.

How to Access the Service?

To receive ABA services in Macomb County, a child will have to be screened. Either the child's Primary Care Physician or the Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH) Access Center can help start this process. The MCCMH Access Center can be reached by calling (586) 948-0222.

Additional information on the MCCMH Early Childhood Autism ABA Benefit can be found at:

<http://www.mccmh.net/OurServices/AutismBenefit.aspx>

