



What is Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by a problem in the brain. Persons with ASD may have problems with social, emotional, or communication skills. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. ASD begins in early childhood and typically lasts throughout life. Children with ASD might show these or other behaviors:

- Not respond to their name by age 12 mos.; not point at objects to show interest by 14 mos.; not play “pretend” games by 18 mos.
- Repeat words or phrases over and over, or have delayed language skills.
- Flap their hands, rock their bodies, or spin in circles.
- Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, look, taste or feel.



Getting ABA Services Started

ABA services provided through Macomb County Community Mental Health are available to children aged 18 mos. to five years living in Macomb County who are covered by Medicaid or MIChild. If your child is covered by private insurance, you may be able to get the services through your private insurance company. Contact their Customer Service line for help.

To get started with ABA Services through Macomb County Community Mental Health, see your child’s doctor or call the Access Center. **Screenings can also be completed online at www.mccmh.net/OurServices/AutismBenefit.aspx.**

What are the Phone Numbers?

The MCCMH Access Center

Voice Line	586-948-0222
FAX	586-948-0223
TTY	711

These phone lines are equipped with language interpreter services.

You may call any MCCMH office Collect.



Applied Behavioral Analysis Services

offered by

**Macomb County
Community Mental Health**





What is Applied Behavioral Analysis?

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) is intensive, behaviorally-based treatment that uses various techniques to bring about meaningful and positive changes in the communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors that are typical of autism. Each child receiving ABA services will have an individualized Behavior Intervention Plan that breaks down desired skills into manageable steps to be learned. ABA emphasizes positive social interactions and enjoyable learning experiences.

ABA behavioral treatment is designed for the needs of each child. It typically includes between 5-20 hours of direct intervention per week. Services are typically provided either in the home or in a clinic setting.

ABA services are available to children from age 18 mos. to five years.

What is my Role as a Parent or Caregiver?

Parent / Caregiver involvement in ABA treatment is critical. Parents / Caregivers are expected to carry on the treatment when the ABA provider is not in the home. Training for parents is part of the ABA service.

How can My Child get the ABA Service?

To receive Applied Behavioral Analysis services, your child will need a screening for the service. Either your child's doctor or the MCCMH Access Center can help start the screening process. The M-CHAT screening tool is available on our website at www.mccmh.net/our-services/autism-benefit. Call the Access Center to begin the screening, or fax an already completed screening tool to our Access Center. Remember that a positive screening for autism is not a diagnosis.



What Happens after the Screening?

When we have a positive screening, we will contact you to set up a more complete evaluation. In the process, you will also be provided with a Case Manager, who will help find other services, supports and resources that may help your child and family.

If your child is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, he or she **will not** need to qualify for other developmental disability or mental health services from MCCMH in order to qualify for the ABA benefit. If your child has ASD but doesn't respond well to ABA for some reason, we will help you get other MCCMH services that may work better for your child. If your child does not have an ASD diagnosis, but may need other developmental or mental health services, MCCMH will help you to get those services.

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