



Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Fact Sheet

What is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)?

ABA discrete trial learning is a medically necessary, highly specific and curriculum driven approach with rigorous goals, objectives, and measurement for children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A child's progress is based upon mastery at each level before moving onto another objective. ABA is provided to children in the home or an agency setting and is intended to:

- Use behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in behavior
- Foster basic skills such as looking, listening and imitating,
- Foster complex skills such as reading, conversing and understanding another person's perspective.

Who's Eligible?

- Children who are enrolled in Medicaid, RItCare or RItShare
- Children up to 21 years of age
- Children living with their family, legal guardian or in foster care
- Children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism, Asperger's, Rett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified.) within the last two years
- Children with significant social, communication and behavioral challenges

Family Role and Responsibilities

- Families must ensure that the care setting is safe
- Families collaborate and communicate with ABA agency staff to develop and implement the Discrete Trial
 - Must be physically present and participate a majority of the time as specified in the Treatment Plan
 - Must be present when siblings requiring supervision are present in the home
 - Must have a parent goal on the Treatment Plan
 - May be asked to keep track of child's behavior during non ABA times

Licensed Clinician/Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Role and Responsibilities

- Conducts behavioral assessments
- Designs and supervise behavior and treatment interventions
- Develops and implements assessments and interventions
- Measure child's progress
- Clinically supervise the paraprofessional staff

Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) or Paraprofessional Role and Responsibilities

- Administer the learning trials
- Chart results
- Maintain treatment consistency over time.

Specialty Clinical Consultant

- Clinical consultation provided by a licensed Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist or a Speech Language Pathologist may be provided through some plans
 - Provide goals in their area of expertise for the child
 - Provide support to facilitate the child's mastery of treatment objectives

Key Components of ABA

- Child Specific Orientation for Newly Assigned Paraprofessional Staff
- Clinical Supervision
- Specialty Treatment Consultation
- Treatment Consultation
- Lead ABA Therapy Support
- Treatment Coordination

How to Access

1. Please first contact your health plan if you are enrolled in RItCare or RItShare (Neighborhood Health Plan or United Healthcare)
2. Contact your Cedar Family Center (if applicable)
3. Contact the ABA provider directly if neither of the above apply to your family.

Reasons for Ending ABA Services

- The child loses Medicaid eligibility/health coverage
- The child's documented goals and objectives have been met
- The family chooses to discontinue ABA
- The child is not benefiting from participation in ABA
- The level of service is no longer suitable
- The child is at risk of harm to self or others
- The home environment presents safety risks to staff
- The parent/guardian is not successfully following program rules
- The child has been admitted to an institutional setting
- The provider agency is unable to staff an authorized Treatment Plan

For more information, please refer to the *RI Medicaid Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs* guide for a list of participating ABA providers.

<http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/ConsumerInformation/Healthcare/PeoplewithSpecialNeedsandDisabilities/Children.aspx>