



AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

There is much that remains poorly understood, from cause to cure. However, there is one widely-accepted fact: Early and intensive intervention can have a profound impact on the quality of life for children at risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. (www.firstsigns.org) Research supports the cost-benefit of early and intensive behavioral intervention (Jacobson, Mulick & Green, 1998); the cost of lifelong care can be reduced by two-thirds with early diagnosis and intervention (Autism Society of America.)

ASD is characterized by varying degrees of difficulty in social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication, and the presence of repetitive behavior and/or restricted interests. Due to the variability and symptom presentation, no two individuals with an ASD diagnosis are the same with respect to how the disorder manifests and its impact on families. Because of the nature of the disorder, people with ASD often will not achieve the ability to function independently without appropriate medically necessary treatment (Behavior Analyst Certification Board, 2014, Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Practice Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers)

About Applied Behavior Analysis in Autism Treatment

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a well-developed scientific discipline among the helping professions, with a mature body of scientific knowledge, established standards for evidence-based practice, distinct methods of service delivery, recognized experience and educational requirements for practice, and identified sources of requisite education in universities. Professionals in ABA engage in the specific and comprehensive use of principles of learning, including operant and respondent learning, to address the needs of individuals with ASD in diverse settings. Services are provided and supervised by Behavior Analysts with expertise and formal training in ABA for specific treatment of ASD. (Behavior Analyst Certification Board, 2014, Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Practice Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers)

Behavior Analyst Certification Board

www.bacb.com

Association for Professional Behavior Analysts

www.apbahome.net

Association for Behavior Analysis International

www.abainternational.org