



SHIAWASSEE

Health & Wellness

AUTISM AND BEHAVIORAL RESOURCE CENTER

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the name for a group of developmental disorders. ASD includes a wide range, “a spectrum,” of symptoms, skills, and levels of disability.

People with ASD often have these characteristics:

- Ongoing social problems that include difficulty communicating and interacting with others
- Repetitive behaviors as well as limited interests or activities
- Symptoms that typically are recognized in the first two years of life
- Symptoms that hurt the individual’s ability to function socially, at school or work, or other areas of life

Some people are mildly impaired by their symptoms, while others are severely disabled. Treatments and services can improve a person’s symptoms and ability to function.

What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an intensive, behaviorally-based treatment that uses various techniques to bring about meaningful and positive change in communication, social interaction, and repetitive/restrictive behaviors that are typical of ASD. Each child will have an individualized intervention plan that breaks down desired skills into manageable steps to be taught. Each ABA plan is designed for the individualized needs of the child and will include an average of 5 to 40 hours of direct interventions per week depending on medical necessity. These services are intensive and can be provided either in the home or in a clinic setting. ABA interventions require parent/guardian training and participation. ABA treatment can be used to address skills and behaviors relevant to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

ABA focuses on increasing:

- Language skills
- Social skills
- Communication skills
- Following instructions
- Peer interactions

- Academic/cognitive skills
- Following typical daycare/classroom routines
- Self-help and daily living skills

What will it look like if my child applies for the program?

Step 1: Primary Care Physician completes a screening to identify ASD using the M-CHAT (Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers).

Step 2: A referral is made to Shiawassee Health and Wellness for your child to receive Access Screen and Assessment.

Step 3: Access Clinician determines Level of Care and verifies Primary Care Physician validated M-Chat.

Step 4: Access Clinician makes referral to provider for Case Management.

Step 5: Complete Diagnostic Evaluations to verify your child has ASD. This process takes approximately 2 hours, and may be completed over one appointment by a qualified licensed practitioner. Once completed, the results are sent to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for review/approval of the ABA benefit. This process can take 45 days from the point of service request to the point of ASD Benefit Approval. This evaluation is then conducted annually for eligibility re-determination. Tools Used include the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2 (ADOS-2) and Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R). *

Step 6: Once approved by MDHHS**, ABA Assessments and Behavioral Evaluations are completed to determine number of hours and needs for treatment. The hours and schedule for treatment will be determined through the person centered planning process following the completion of all assessments.

*If ADOS and ADI-R results are negative for the ABA Program, your child will be referred to appropriate alternative services.

**If denied by MDHHS for the ABA benefit, Case Management may end and your child will be referred to appropriate services, if other than Case Management.

Who is eligible for the SHW Autism and Behavioral Resource Center?

The Shiawassee Health and Wellness Autism and Behavioral Resource Center is available to children who:

- Have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Primary Care Physician and qualified licensed practitioner.
- Are ages 18 months to 20 years old (benefit ends on 21st birthday).
- Live in Shiawassee County

- Are enrolled in Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, or MIChild

Why are there so many tests and assessments?

The ABA Program is a results-based program that uses these tests and assessments to track the progress your child is making while he or she is in the program.

Who will be working with my child?

Your child will have a team of SHW experts working with them while they are in the program. This program is overseen by a BCBA (Board-Certified Behavior Analyst). A Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) who is a paraprofessional practicing under the close, ongoing supervision of a BCBA, BCaBA, or FL-CBA will see your child. The RBT is primarily responsible for the direct implementation of behavior-analytic services. The RBT does not design intervention or assessment plans. It is the responsibility of the RBT supervisor to determine which tasks a RBT may perform as a function of his or her training, experience, and competence. The BACB supervising the RBT is responsible for the work performed by the RBT on the cases they are overseeing.