

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AUTISM:

- Autism greatly varies from person to person - no two people with autism are alike!
- Parents who have a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have a 2%–18% chance of having a second child who also has ASD.
- Almost half (44%) of children identified with ASD has average to **above average** intellectual ability.
- **ASD commonly co-occurs** with other neurologic, developmental, psychiatric, chromosomal, and genetic diagnoses. The co-occurrence of one or more non-ASD developmental diagnoses is 83%. The co-occurrence of one or more psychiatric diagnoses is 10%.
- Research has shown that a diagnosis of Autism at age 2 can be reliable, valid, and stable.
- While Autism is a lifelong diagnosis, for **some people who receive intensive early intervention, like ABA Therapy, symptoms may decrease significantly.**
- People with Autism can learn coping skills to help them manage their difficulties **and even build on their unique strengths.**
- Many studies have looked at whether there is a relationship between vaccines and Autism. To date, the studies continue to show that vaccines are **NOT** associated with ASD.



**St. Clair County
Community Mental Health**
Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection

Information and Access to Services:

810-488-8888

**24-Hour Crisis Line:
810-966-2575**

www.scccmh.org |    

St. Clair County Community Mental Health

3111 Electric Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-8900

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Child & Family Services

2415 24th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 488-8840

St. Clair County Community Mental Health - South Adult Services

6221 King Road
Marine City, MI 48039
(810) 765-5010

St. Clair County Community Mental Health - South Child & Family Services

135 Broadway
Marine City, MI 48039
(810) 400-4200

St. Clair County Community Mental Health - West

14675 Downey Road
Capac, MI 48014
(810) 395-4343

ABA

APPLIED • BEHAVIOR • ANALYSIS

THERAPY

For Children with
Autism Spectrum
Disorder (ASD)



**St. Clair County
Community Mental Health**
Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection

What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a range of complex neurodevelopmental disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior.

1 in 36 children have been identified with ASD, though it is over four times more common among boys, and affects all racial, ethnic, economic, and social groups.



Very early indicators that require evaluation by an expert include:

- No babbling or pointing by age one
- No single words by 16 months or two-word phrases by age two
- No response to name
- Loss of language or social skills
- Poor eye contact
- Excessive lining up of toys or objects
- No smiling or social responsiveness
- No pointing to objects or following the points of others

Later indicators include:

- Impaired ability to make friends with peers
- Impaired ability to initiate or sustain conversation with others
- Absence or impairment of imaginative and social play
- Stereotyped, repetitive, or unusual use of language
- Restricted patterns of interest that are abnormal in intensity or focus
- Preoccupation with certain objects or subjects
- Inflexible adherence to specific routines or rituals

What is ABA Therapy?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an evidence-based, scientific approach to understanding behavior and how it is affected by the environment. ABA focuses on the principles that explain how learning takes place. Some of these principles include:

- Reinforcement
- Motivation
- Direct instruction
- Modeling
- Errorless teaching
- Prompt fading

ABA utilizes highly qualified professionals to improve:

- Receptive and expressive communication
- Social engagement and social skills
- Independent play and imaginary play skills
- Food selectivity and acceptance
- Gross motor and fine motor skills
- Independence through learning daily living skills

ABA can improve skills with:

- All age groups
- All developmental levels
- All socioeconomic groups
- All ethnic groups



Who receives ABA Therapy?

Through St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH), ABA is a Medicaid and MiChild benefit for children age 18 months to 21 years old with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder based on a comprehensive Autism Spectrum Disorder evaluation and the criteria set forth in the Medicaid manual.

How to enroll in ABA Therapy:

If you suspect your child has ASD, speak with your child's pediatrician about a Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) Assessment. If Autism is suspected based on this, families should call and **spea**k with the **St. Clair County Community Mental Health Crisis and Access Center at 810-488-8888**. An Intake Unit Clinician will complete another assessment and if the child meets the diagnostic criteria, they will be enrolled in CMH services. From there, a comprehensive Autism Spectrum Disorder evaluation will be completed to confirm an ASD diagnosis. If the child meets the criteria set forth in the Medicaid Manual and ABA is clinically appropriate, the child will be enrolled in the benefit.

What to expect in ABA:

After being referred to one of SCCCMMH's ABA contracted providers, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) will work with the child and their family to determine skills, milestones, barriers, and goals. A treatment plan will be developed that is specific and unique to each child, based on both their strengths and skill deficits. Everyone on the child's treatment team will be trained on their individual plan and will be regularly supervised by the child's BCBA.