



Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority Medicaid and MICHild Autism Benefit



What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by a problem in the brain. Scientists do not know yet exactly what causes ASD. ASD can impact a person's functioning in different ways. People with ASD may have problems with social, behavioral, and communication skills. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. ASD begins during early childhood and last throughout a person's lifetime. A person with an ASD might:

- ❖ Not respond to their name by 12 months
- ❖ Not point at objects to show interest by 14 months
- ❖ Not play "pretend" games by 18 months
- ❖ Avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- ❖ Have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- ❖ Have delayed speech and language skills
- ❖ Repeat words or phrases over and over
- ❖ Give unrelated answers to questions
- ❖ Get upset by minor changes
- ❖ Have obsessive interests
- ❖ Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles
- ❖ Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look, or feel

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

The State of Michigan now offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services to individuals who:

- ❖ Have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnosis
- ❖ Are 18 months through 5 years of age
- ❖ Are Medicaid or MICHild Eligible

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 changes in the communication, social interaction, and repetitive/restrictive behaviors that are typical of ASD. Each child will have an individualized ABA Treatment Plan that breaks down desired skills into manageable steps to be taught. Each ABA Plan is designed for the individualized needs of each child and will include an average of 5 to 20 hours of direct interventions per week depending on medical necessity and parent/guardian agreement. These services are intensive and can be provided either in the home or in a clinic setting. ABA interventions involve parent/guardian training and participation. Parent/guardian involvement is critical to seeing noticeable progress.

Who are the ASD Benefit Providers?

Centria Healthcare
The Children's Center
Connections
The Guidance Center
Neighborhood Service Organization
Starfish Family Services
PsychSystems
University Pediatricians Autism Center

How to Access the Service?

To receive ABA services in Wayne County, a child will need to be screened. Either the child's Primary Care Physician or the Detroit Wayne Mental Health (DWMHA) Access Center can help start this process.

The DWMHA Access Center can be reached by calling (800) 241-4949

Additional information on the DWMHA Autism Benefit can found at: www.dwmha.com



