

# Children's Autism Program



**We are here to help you and your family by providing focused applied behavior analysis treatment services to children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum.**

## **Additional Texas Health and Human Services Resources:**

Texas Autism Research and Resource Center  
TARRC.org

Navigate Life Texas  
navigatelifetexas.org

## **Additional information related to applied behavior analysis and Autism:**

Texas Parent 2 Parent  
txp2p.org

Autism Society of Texas  
texasautismsociety.org

Autism Speaks  
autismspeaks.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism

Texas Association for Behavior Analysis  
txaba.org

Behavior Analyst Certification Board  
bacb.com

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
tdlr.texas.gov/bhv/bhv.htm



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Focused applied behavior analysis (ABA) teaches children with autism skills they need to improve family and community engagement. ABA uses positive reinforcement to increase desired behaviors and decrease challenging behavior.

A team works with the family to develop a treatment plan for each child, based on his or her individual strengths and needs. Goals in this treatment plan are based on specific behaviors that are most critical for the child to be successful in his or her daily life. The team will monitor progress and adjust the plan as needed. The child can get services in the home, in a clinic or familiar settings in the community.

Families of all income levels are eligible for services from the Children's Autism Program. Contact your local Children's Autism Program service provider to learn more about the cost of services for your family.

## **How can I find services?**

Your child can get services from age 3 through 15, if they live in Texas and has a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. Services are provided across the state. Contact the Children's Autism Program at [autism.services@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:autism.services@hhsc.state.tx.us) to find a provider or visit [hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/autism/contractors-providing-autism-services](http://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/autism/contractors-providing-autism-services).

## **Signs and symptoms**

Autism typically shows up in a child before the age of 3. They will vary by child. Some common behaviors associated with autism include:

- Delayed communication skills
- Difficulty making eye contact or holding conversations
- Difficulty with executive functioning, which relates to reasoning and planning
- Narrow, intense or fixated interests that are not typical in intensity or focus
- Inflexible adherence to routines
- Poor motor skills and sensory sensitivities