

The University of Memphis Autism Treatment, Training & Research Clinic

WHAT IS ABA?

The need for autism services is significant and growing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 36 children in the United States is currently diagnosed with autism. Despite this prevalence, families across the country often face long waitlists and limited access to high-quality treatment. Recognizing this, both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General strongly endorse Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as a gold-standard treatment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) due to its proven effectiveness in improving a wide range of developmental outcomes.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a scientific and evidence-based method for understanding and enhancing behavior. Rooted in behavioral psychology, ABA centers on the premise that most human behavior is learned—and that by modifying the environment, we can teach new, more functional behaviors. ABA employs strategies such as positive reinforcement to assist children in acquiring language, social skills and independence while diminishing behaviors that hinder learning.

At the University of Memphis Autism Center, ABA is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Each child receives a meticulously individualized plan, and progress is consistently monitored by trained professionals. Through this model, we ensure that our interventions are not only effective but also meaningful to both the child and the family.



CONTACT

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Our Services

Our team of licensed Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) provides individualized, evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children ages 2 to 7 through flexible service models, including:

- We proudly work with community-based placements in any setting that welcomes external ABA support, including but not limited to: private and charter schools, preschools and early learning centers.
- Home-based services (delivered directly in the child's natural environment).
- Clinic-based therapy.

Our services provide individualized ABA services in a structured setting, focusing on communication, behavior, and daily living skills. Services include assessments, one-on-one individual interventions, and caregiver support guided by licensed professionals.

Our Focus

We focus on developing essential developmental and functional skills through individualized goals tailored to each child's unique needs and learning style. Our objective is to help children develop foundational skills that support greater independence and success across various settings, while also promoting growth that matches with their age-appropriate developmental expectations.



Target skill areas include:

- Language and Communication – Expanding expressive and receptive language to foster meaningful interactions.
- Self-Care and Daily Living Routines – Teaching independence in toileting, dressing, eating, and hygiene.
- Social Interaction and Play – Building and developing cooperative play, turn-taking, and relationship-building skills.
- Emotional Regulation and Behavior Reduction- Replacing challenging behaviors with functional alternatives to support learning and engagement.

Through consistent progress monitoring and collaboration with families, our goal is to help each child develop skills comparable to those of typically developing peers of the same age, thereby establishing a foundation for inclusion and long-term success.

All services are supervised and overseen by BCBA-Ds and BCBAs, and implemented by trained RBTs in close collaboration with families to ensure consistency and continuity across home, school, and community settings.

Who We Serve

Older children may be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on individual needs and alignment with our service model. To enroll, children must have a formal medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Parents and Caregivers

Receive individualized training and ongoing support to implement ABA-based strategies confidently.

Teachers and Childcare Providers

Provide consultation, training, and collaboration to align behavior strategies across environments.

Students and Interns

We serve as a clinical training site for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing BACB certification, as well as interns from related disciplines, including psychology, education, speech-language pathology and social work (such as MSW/MSWO). Our program provides high-quality supervision and practical hands-on experience to prepare skilled professionals for interdisciplinary practice.

Payment and Insurance

The Autism Clinic is in-network with most major insurance providers. In addition to insurance-covered services, we also offer private-pay options for consultations, parent training and individualized support services.

Contact us to see if we are in network with your insurance: UofMAutismClinic@memphis.edu