

Parent-Child Services Group, Inc.

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Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

ABA is a systematic approach to teaching valued skills and prosocial behaviors. Skills and behaviors are analyzed, then a program is developed for individual intervention. Programs include specific presentation methods and reinforcement schedules with cues that are faded to encourage independent functioning and generalization. *ABA* programs are often beneficial to children with complex behaviors such as those with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Parent-Child Services Group, Inc.'s ABA Team includes Sara Savage, M.S., BCBA, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with a Master's Degree from the Florida Institute of Technology, and Ginger Houghtalen, M.S., a Programmer trained through the Virginia Institute of Autism with a Master's Degree in Special Education. PCSG's Programmers work with Implementers with a variety of educational backgrounds, such as speech-language pathology, psychology, or specific training provided by our experts. Either the BCBA or the Programmer may be in charge of your child's program.

Prior to entering an *ABA* program, each child must have full evaluations indicating skill levels in a variety of developmental areas. These may include psychological, speech-language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or an evaluation by the Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. After a review of the child's file, additional evaluations may be requested if information is not sufficient to plan the child's program.

At the onset of an *ABA* program, the Programmer and Implementer will observe the child's routines and behavioral characteristics in the home and begin to set up a structured work area for the child in the home. A program notebook will be developed with goals and activities which can be used by the Implementer in weekly sessions (typically a minimum of 3 per week) and can be used by the family for follow-up activities and generalization as guided by the team.

For more information on how *ABA* may help you and your child, call Parent-Child Services Group, Inc. at 865-584-5558.