Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Fact Sheet

What is ABA?

Applied Behavior Analysis therapy is useful in teaching behaviors to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related diagnoses who do not otherwise "pick up" on these behaviors on their own as other children would. Applied Behavior Analysis teaches these skills with careful behavioral observation and positive reinforcement or prompting to teach each step of a behavior. The Applied Behavior Analysis approach teaches social, motor, and verbal behaviors and reasoning skills, and can also be effective in managing challenging behaviors.

Who is Eligible?

A child or youth under the age of 21 and meets the following requirements:
- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Living with their family, legal guardian or another caregiver
- Diagnosed with a cognitive, developmental and/or an Autism Spectrum Disorder within the last two years
- Experiencing significant social, behavioral and communication challenges

What should I expect with an ABA program?

Family participation is crucial to the progress of your child while in the program by:
- Helping to identify goals for your child
- Supervising other siblings during ABA sessions
- Assisting ABA staff to track your child's behavior during times when staff are not present

Licensed Clinicians and ABA staff work with your child and family as a team to:
- Use current goals from other programs, new assessment information, ongoing data, and observations to guide goal development and program planning
- Incorporate ABA principles into each session to help your children make progress toward their goals

How to access ABA services:

- Contact your health plan if you are enrolled in Medicaid, RIteCare or RIteShare (Neighborhood Health Plan, United Healthcare, or Tufts Health Plan)
- Contact the ABA provider directly

For more information, please refer to the *RI Medicaid Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs* guide for a list of participating certified ABA providers.

http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/FamilieswithChildren/ChildrenwithSpecialNeeds.aspx