



**Bridgeway Therapy Center's Clinical ABA Program
Parent FAQ**
Updated: 1/13/2023

General Questions about ABA Therapy:

What is ABA Therapy?

ABA, or Applied Behavior Analysis, is the standard of care for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. ABA therapy is rooted in the scientific study of the principles of learning and behavior. In ABA therapy, we use specialized assessment methods to understand what motivates your child. We then use this motivation to teach your child socially significant behaviors through individualized and systematic programming. For more information, visit www.bacb.com.

Core Characteristics of ABA:

- Objective assessment and analysis of a client's current needs, by observing how the environment affects the client's behavior, as evidenced by data collection
- Understanding the context of a behavior, and the behavior's value to the individual, the family, and the community
- Using procedures of behavior analysis to improve a client's health, independence, and quality of life
- Consistent, ongoing, and objective assessment and data analysis to inform clinical decision-making

How will ABA therapy help my child?

ABA therapy is the gold standard for a clinically-validated and heavily researched approach to helping children with autism. ABA therapy will address the areas of need identified during an initial assessment of your child's development across several skill areas. With children on the autism spectrum, this often includes communication, social and play skills, self-care skills, and adaptive behavior.

When is the best time for my child to begin ABA therapy?

Simply put: *the earlier, the better*. Evidence-based research has demonstrated that children who start intensive ABA therapy as early as possible make the most significant improvements in their areas of deficit.

What skills are targeted in an ABA therapy program?

ABA treatment frequently is used to build such skills as:

- Social skills (e.g. joint attention, responding to and initiating bids for interaction, taking turns)
- Adaptive living skills (e.g. toileting, feeding, dressing, daily routines, etc.)
- Expressive language (e.g. requesting for wants and needs, labeling familiar objects,
- Receptive language (e.g. following directions, identifying objects from a field of view)
- Play and Leisure skills (e.g. functional toy play, expanding interests)
- Foundational academic and pre-academic skills (e.g. matching, motor imitation, independent tasks)
- "Learning readiness" behaviors (e.g. staying in a designated space, following a schedule, waiting)

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Questions about Bridgeway's Clinical ABA Program

What is the age range of children you serve?

Our Clinical ABA program currently serves children aged 18 months to 5 years with a diagnosis of autism or a developmental disability.

How is this program structured, staffed, and supervised?

- Our Clinical Program consists of 4 enrolled clients per half-day session, and 4-5 Clinical Team Technicians
 - Our Clinical Team Technicians are Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), or are currently working toward credentials to become a BCBA or RBT.
 - The clinical team works under the direct, on site supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to implement programming that is unique to each learner.
- This therapy program includes:
 - 15 hours of direct ABA therapy per week (3 hours per day)
 - 1-2 hours of direct supervision per week (at least 1 hour of supervision/10 hours of service) by a BCBA
 - All programming and assessments directly supervised by a BCBA
 - Monthly parent training/observation package
- Hours of operation:
 - AM sessions: 9am-12pm Monday through Friday
 - PM sessions: 12:45 pm- 3:45 pm Monday through Friday

*Clinical ABA Program runs on a 46.5 week/year calendar, which includes some breaks over holidays, as well as staff development days.

Will my child be one-on-one the whole time? How many therapists will work with my child?

Our program offers ABA therapy at a 1:1 and/or 1:2 technician to client ratio. Clinical team therapists are scheduled to rotate clients in order to create opportunities for both ratios daily, as well as promote generalization of skills across instructors.

Do you use any other methodologies besides ABA?

Bridgeway Therapy Center supports the use of any evidence-based methods used for treatment within the scope of behavior analysis, but Applied Behavior Analysis is the foundation of our daily practices.

Some of the ABA-based teaching methods we utilize are:

- Discrete Trial Instruction (DTI)
- Functional Communication Training (FCT)
- Pivotal Response Training (PRT)
- Behavior Skills Training (BST)
- Natural Environment Teaching (NET)
- Components from Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)

What happens during your initial enrollment and assessment process?

Each parent will participate in an initial intake meeting with a supervising BCBA to discuss enrollment, seek information about your child's developmental history, and discuss any concerns you may have. We will also review any outside assessment results or documentation that have been completed by other providers and/or your child's school. Once we have that information, our formal assessment process can begin.

Some assessments we may use, initially or throughout the calendar year, are:

- Verbal Behavior- Milestone Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP)
- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)
- Functional Analysis Screening Tool (FAST)
- Trial-Based Functional Analysis
- Interview-Informed Synthesized Contingency Analysis (IISCA)

For the first several sessions, staff will spend time observing, pairing, taking narrative data, and completing assessments, including the VB-MAPP. Following initial assessments, the clinical team will meet with the supervising BCBA to discuss socially significant treatment goals to target, based on a combination of assessment results, observations, and existing IEP goals.

The clinical team will then fill out a program trajectory to guide treatment design. Programs and targets will be selected and written based on each individual, along with creating data sheets and report templates. All sessions following the assessment process will be planned in accordance with your child's treatment goals and programming.

What does a typical day of ABA therapy look like?

- **Arrival:** Parents should plan to park in our parking lot and bring their child to the main lobby.
 - Parents will utilize a check-in system by signing in via laptop, and putting a therapy sticker on your child's clothing. For your first time signing in, please seek assistance from the front desk.
 - A therapist will come to the lobby at the designated start time of the session.
 - The therapist may briefly ask you about your child's day so far (for example, sleep habits, any unusual behavior, any new skills demonstrated, etc.). The therapist will then walk your child to the treatment space.
- **Daily sessions:** Your child will access one of our treatment spaces to begin instruction. He/she will receive frequent reinforcement breaks throughout the session. Activities and programming will vary in length and presentation in order to keep your child attentive and motivated as they target established treatment goals. Data will be recorded throughout the session in order to document progress.
- **Departure:** The session will end with the therapist walking your child back to the lobby. Parents should plan to arrive in the lobby a few minutes before the designated end time. The therapist will finalize session notes, and submit a daily note to Classroom Dojo by the end of the work day (4:15pm).
- **Keep in Mind:**
 - At this time, we do not have the capacity for parents to stay in the lobby for the full 3-hour session.
 - When arriving in the lobby with your child, please make sure to remain with your child (ex: holding hands, sitting in a chair, utilizing the waiting room space) until a therapist arrives to take him/her back to the treatment space.

- Transitions outside of the therapy space is a skill that is targeted within the 3-hour session. Therefore, release to and from the parents will occur at the designated start and end times of the session.

How often can I expect communication regarding my child's progress?

Daily: For daily updates and direct communication, we will use the same communication application that has been successful for Bridgeway Academy's Education Center: *Classroom Dojo*.

- “*Classroom story*” feature will be used as a way to remind parents of upcoming events, closures, etc.
- “*Student portfolio*” feature will be used to upload individual pictures and videos related to progress, as well as the daily update. Parents can expect:
 - 1 “daily sheet” upload each day by 4pm (checklist of programs and 1-2 specific updates)
 - 2-3 picture/video progress posts to student portfolio per week
- “*Direct messaging*” feature will be used to communicate directly with parents about more timely concerns.
- The Clinical ABA team therapists are also available via email: clinicalaba@bridgewayohio.org. Please allow therapists **up to 24 hours** to respond to messages and emails, as they spend the full work day with our clients.

Monthly: Clinical Team Therapists are responsible for submitting a skills tracking report every month that summarizes progress and/ or modifications made to each client's programming. This will be sent to parents as well.

Quarterly (every 9 weeks): Clinical Team Therapists are responsible for submitting quarterly progress reports related to treatment goals. This will be sent to parents as well. Progress will be reported to any and all necessary agencies.

If my child is unable to make it to a session due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, who should I contact?

Please complete the Attendance Form linked below any time your child will be absent, including full or partial days. Complete this as soon as you make the decision to keep your child home, ideally by 7am that morning. As long as you fill out this form, you will no longer need to inform staff individually or call the front desk. If you have an excuse note for your student, please send this to rstanforth@bridgewayohio.org. Information regarding our Illness Policies can be found in our Therapy Center Handbook.

The [Attendance Form for Parents](#) is also linked under the "For Parents" section of our website. If you experience a last-minute emergency, you may still call the front desk.

We understand that extenuating circumstances may occur from time to time that cause late arrivals or pick-ups. However, it is important that we account for our team's time and schedules. *Within our Therapy Center Handbook (signed during enrollment), there are policies for late arrival and pick-up that may result in additional fees charged to your account.*

My child is receiving therapy services (Speech, Occupational and Physical) from outside providers. Will I have to stop? Am I able to switch my funding to receive these therapies at Bridgeway?

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You will not need to stop existing services. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with professionals that are already familiar with your child and, if applicable, will do our best to incorporate targeted skills and strategies they are using into our treatment plan.

However, we have the unique privilege of collaborating and co-treating with therapists within the same building. Bridgeway Therapy Center consists of: Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Music Therapy, and Psychology Departments. If you are interested in utilizing any of our additional therapy services, it is possible these therapies could be scheduled **before, during, or after** your child's half-day session based on therapist availability and recommendation. [Click here for more information about our Therapy Center.](#)

If you are interested in your child receiving additional therapies through Bridgeway Therapy Center, please contact our Director of Therapy Services, Lindsey Cargill. lcargill@bridgewayohio.org

My child is currently enrolled in one of Bridgeway Academy's classrooms. Can we still access this Clinical ABA program for part of the school day?

Our Clinical ABA Program is housed in Bridgeway Therapy Center, and is entirely independent from Bridgeway Academy's school-based programs. We provide clients with early intensive intervention based on a therapy model, consisting of 3-hour sessions per day, 5 days a week with a ratio of 1 staff to 1-2 clients. Bridgeway Academy programs utilize a full-day classroom model, 5 days a week, with a ratio of 4-5 staff to 9-10 students. *For this reason, our Clinical ABA Half Day program is only accessible for those who are not enrolled in a full-day educational program.*

Bridgeway Academy's full-day programs use the principles of ABA as the foundation of all classroom activities. In this setting, ABA methods are utilized to offer individualized instruction, as well as promote peer interactions, group skills, and adaptive behaviors that will increase independence in a classroom environment. While Bridgeway Academy's full-day classroom model uses a *comprehensive* approach to learning, Bridgeway Therapy Center's half-day intensive model is more *focused* in approach. [Click here for more information about Bridgeway Academy's full-day classrooms.](#)

What are some possible funding sources for the Clinical ABA program?

The Clinical ABA program is a fee for service model. Charges will be based on attendance and service delivery. The following funding options are accepted:

- Private Pay (ages 18 months- 5 years)
- Autism Scholarship (ages 3-5 years)
 - \$32,445 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023), scholarship will be prorated based on eligibility date
 - Services provided by the Therapists and the supervising BCBA can be billed directly to AS. Time and attendance will be recorded daily on notes and submitted weekly.
- Franklin County
 - If available, and clinically necessary, funds can be supplemental/ancillary for services provided by a BCBA, including and beyond the 1-2 direct hours per 10 hours of service required for case supervision.
- Private Insurance
 - Bridgeway Therapy Center is currently undergoing the credentialing process to access commercial insurance policies as payment for therapies, and will be in touch with families individually based on insurance carriers if this funding source applies.

Do you offer parent training/ observations?

Yes. Parental involvement is crucial for any client who is participating in our Clinical ABA Program.

- All parents have the option of **one parent training, meeting, or observation per month** as part of our program.
- Since this is optional, **it is up to the parent to reach out to a Clinical Team member or Supervisor to schedule this each month.**
- Please plan to request with enough time for the team to prepare for the visit, and work through potential scheduling conflicts.

I have more questions and would like to talk with someone on your clinical staff. Who should I contact?

If you would like to speak to someone regarding services, the best way to reach us is by phone (614-262-7520), emailing us at admissions@bridgewayohio.org, or filling out our [enrollment application](#). A Clinical ABA team member will get in touch with you as soon as possible.