



ABA Preschool Information

To Parents/Guardians:

First of all, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's educational journey! We at Coosa Behavioral Services are so excited to have the opportunity to partner with Etowah County Schools to develop a wonderful Applied Behavior Analysis Preschool setting.

What is ABA?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the science of understanding and improving human behavior. Behavioral principles are used to change socially significant behaviors for the consumer

ABA has become widely accepted as one of THE most effective treatments for behavior change, although many people still think ABA treatment is only for individuals with Autism. ABA is much broader than that, and should not be reduced down to only being effective with one specific population. (www.iloveaba.com)

Some other wonderful ways ABA is used in our world, include (but are not limited to): employee retention, traumatic brain injury, geriatrics, animal training, job skills training, potty training, and so much more!

Our goals for this school year:

- Train staff in the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Create structure, consistency and competency in daily school life for staff and students.
- Identify and collect data on socially significant goals for each student, including academic, communication, social and self-help skills.
- Individualize all student learning and reinforcement.

For more information about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) here are some parent friendly digital resources, as well as a few we will be referring to throughout the year!

www.theautismhelper.com

www.iloveaba.com

www.behaviorbabe.com

www.asatonline.org

Can't wait to get to know your children this school year!

-Kara Scheller, MS, BCBA, LBA-

If you have any questions or want more information about ABA, please reach out to us! My email is kara@coosabehavioralservices.com and our clinic phone is 256-459-5499

It's kind of fun to do the impossible! - Walt Disney

02/22/2022

To Who it May Concern,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the special ed, ABA based program that is in place at Highland Elementary. I am a family practice provider and mother of two beautiful children. The first very neurotypical, my second, unfortunately not so much. My [REDACTED] was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder level 2 in August 2021. In all my trials in life and family medicine, this has been the most difficult situation to manage and muscle through. My [REDACTED] has limited verbal communication as is characteristic of the disorder. You cannot imagine the utter fear I had turning my minimally verbal sensory overloaded three-year-old over to the care of strangers, professionals all be it, but still strangers. With tears in my eyes, I met for the development of his IEP with the principal, counselor and teachers and expressed my fears and concerns of whether this would traumatize [REDACTED] or help improve [REDACTED] atypical neuro behaviors. I was assured by his wonderful teacher Audrey Rhoades that she has a brother on the spectrum, has lived this her whole life and this immediately brought me comfort. My [REDACTED] has only been in the program for approximately 5 weeks and his father and I already see big, positive changes. [REDACTED] is starting to perform simple tasks like letting the cat out without being prompted. [REDACTED] is making eye contact so much better than before. [REDACTED] cries when [REDACTED] leaves for school but picks [REDACTED] backpack up like a little soldier and marches off to the car to go anyway. While heartbreaking to witness, I see this as progress. I see [REDACTED] finally realizing that in life we have to do things that are not the most pleasant, but we make it through. Since our diagnosis we were so lost being told of waiting list after waiting list and no one being able to work [REDACTED] in office for ABA therapy as we were always 99 to 100+ on the waiting lists for local care and even Children's of Alabama. Now, thanks to Denise Dansinger at the ECBOC Learning Center and her assistance getting [REDACTED] into this program at Highlands, we finally have some hope. That is something this family has not had in a long time. My [REDACTED] is treated with love and compassion by the staff at Highlands. I actually feel [REDACTED] is safe when [REDACTED] is in their care. I am confident that even though [REDACTED] cannot express [REDACTED] needs [REDACTED] teachers will eventually figure it out. I am thoroughly impressed by what I have witnessed by these amazing educators. I wanted to take a moment and express my deepest gratitude to Audrey Rhodes for going over and beyond. [REDACTED] first week, [REDACTED] was so distraught from the unfamiliar surroundings that she held [REDACTED] in her lap for nap time and [REDACTED] fell sound asleep. She texted me a picture of [REDACTED] because she knows I worry so. She brought [REDACTED] favorite blanket (as in our distress forgot it) to my office after school and even texted to check on [REDACTED] from time to time after school hours. My mother is an educator and I've grown up around the education system my entire life. That woman deserves a raise and praise for her compassion and devotion to these children as all teachers are not this dedicated. This school is extremely fortunate to have her on staff. I hope that the special ed program will continue to get the state funding that is necessary to expand and continue to improve their ABA program.

Autism statistics are rising year by year and Alabama is behind in having enough programs to assist these students as they thrive best with one-on-one intervention. These beautiful children, although not neurotypical as many of us are, regardless of their differences and challenges, are still someone's daughter or son and at the heart of it, special human beings. They deserve respect, love, understanding and every opportunity to achieve their best life. As a family practice provider, I believe

the special ed program and aba-based therapies in place at this facility are spot on, and hope you will consider how paramount they are in improving the quality of life of children with developmental disabilities and sensory and communication disorders. These programs deserve all the funding and support they can get and I hope you will take this into consideration. Autism is fear of the unknown. You feel as if you are stumbling around a dark abyss reaching for answers in the dark that will never be found. It is fear of the future for your child when you are no longer there to take care of them and guide them. It is grief over the loss of all the dreams you originally had planned for this special person you carried inside of you for nine months. This anxiety and fear consume you daily. I cannot stress enough how grateful we are to Denise, Highlands Elementary staff, and this 3k program and are forever in your debt for relieving some of our fears and assisting our [REDACTED] to be the best [REDACTED] he can be. Again, thank you for all you do. I know you guys do not hear that enough!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

When I was informed about your program, I was very excited. With my oldest [REDACTED] I wasn't able to get [REDACTED] the help [REDACTED] needed earlier in [REDACTED] childhood. I was thrilled when Ms. Dasinger said the program was incorporating ABA. My oldest [REDACTED] started ABA last year and it has helped [REDACTED] so much that [REDACTED] started telling me [REDACTED] loves me. Which is something most people take lightly. Something "small" like that to other people is "normal", but when you have a (5 at the time) year old; who has barely said a word to you at all; tell you they love you it hits differently. Honestly without the help [REDACTED] has had I feel like [REDACTED] wouldn't have been able to communicate at all! I really hope this helps you understand why this is important especially for people who don't know how else to help their children. Thank you for helping us succeed. I look forward to seeing how much this helps my little ones grow to the wonderful people they are supposed to be!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Letter

Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 3:25 PM

To: "denise_dasinger@ecboe.org" <denise_dasinger@ecboe.org>

To whom it may concern,

[REDACTED] has been a student at Highland Elementary School since [REDACTED] turned three years old. [REDACTED] experiences there have allowed [REDACTED] to flourish and become a more independent person. [REDACTED] started walking without [REDACTED] walker and communicating better since [REDACTED] been part of this peer group. Being around others has helped improve [REDACTED] social skills and helped get [REDACTED] used to loud abrupt noises.

The help that [REDACTED] receives from [REDACTED] three therapists has been so meaningful to us. During COVID closures they Facetimed us and sent home packets of activities perfect for [REDACTED] ability level. All these things have improved our quality of life. This class has been so beneficial for [REDACTED] and our family.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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