

Autism Interventions & Assistance

Autism Speaks is a nationwide nonprofit that connects families to resources and contains the latest research about autism.

Website: <https://www.autismspeaks.org>

The Autism Society of Florida is a statewide organization that supports individuals with autism, their caregivers, and advocates.

Website: <https://autismfl.com/>

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) aims to provide supports and assistance to optimize the potential of individuals with Autism, sensory impairments, and related disabilities.

Website: <https://florida-card.org> Phone: 904-633-0760 – UF Center of Jax

The Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) is a 16-week multimodal therapy program for newly diagnosed autistic children. Wolfson Children’s Hospital offers the program for children from 18 months to 4 years old.

This program is a short-term treatment option It is based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) methods and can assist with Therapy and Developmental goals, often while on the waitlist to start long term ABA therapy.

Parents and therapists use play to build positive and fun relationships. Play and joint activities encourage the child to boost language, social, and cognitive skills.

Website: Wolfson Children’s Early Autism Program

Early intervention is essential for the treatment of Autism. Behavioral therapy must be led by board-certified behavioral analysts (BCBAs). It is recommended that parents visit several practices to pick the best for the family. Applied Behavioral Analysis can be enjoyable for the child, but it is time-consuming and requires several hours each week to be effective. Typically, ABA is conducted in a clinic and at home.

ABA PROVIDERS:

Great Strides Rehabilitation has locations in both Duval and Clay County. Great Strides is an ABA therapy clinic that offers services in the clinic and the home. They also have a private school program for children with special needs, speech, occupational, and physical therapists on site and social skill-building group therapy programs.

Website: <https://greatstridesrehab.com/> Phone: 904-886-3228

Bloom Behavioral Solutions is an ABA therapy Clinic in Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach. Bloom offers ABA therapy in clinic and in the home, and they provide occupational and speech/language therapy onsite.

Website: <https://jaxbloom.com> Phone: 904-647-1849

Beacon Pediatric Behavioral Health is another Privately Owned clinic that offers comprehensive services for children with autism, including ABA therapy, language acquisition therapy, and other services.

Website: <https://beaconpediatric.com/> Phone: 904-419-7792

Florida Autism Center (Division of Bluesprig) is ABA therapy center with many locations in the surrounding areas.

Website: <https://bluesprigautism.com> Phone: 866-610-0580

Strong Foundations Behavior Services is a clinic-based ABA provider that provides ABA therapy parent training, school district consultation, and social skill groups.

Website: <https://www.strong-foundations.com> Phone: 904-579-4779

Behavior Management Consultants, INC is Clinic-Based ABA Therapy for Children in Florida and Georgia for children with autism and related developmental needs.

Website: <https://www.bmcsoutheasts.com> Phone: 904-619-8430

InBloom Autism Services (IAS) is a clinic, in-home, and in-school ABA therapy practice with board-certified behavioral analysts in Jacksonville specializing in early intervention. InBloom also offers parent-training programs and social skill-building groups. Positive Behavioral Solutions is now a part of IAS. Works with ages 18 months to 5 yrs old.

Website: <https://inbloomautism.com/> Phone: 877-479-6291

Behavior Builders also offers ABA therapy, and they have a location on the westside of Duval County.

Website: <https://behaviorbuilders.com/> Phone: 904-613-5005

Mandala Mental Health Services is an ABA therapy provider that offers clinic and in home ABA therapy.

Website: <https://mandalawellness.com> Phone: 904-834-7581

Cultivate Behavioral Health is an ABA therapy clinic with ovals throughout the Jacksonville metro area.

Website: <https://cultivatebhe.com/> Phone: 855-444-5664

Maxim Healthcare is located in Jacksonville, doesn't have a significant wait list and offers at home, at school, and community-based ABA therapy services.

Website: <https://maximhealthcare.com/> Phone: 904-396-2199

Autism Learning Partners is an in-home ABA therapy provider in the Jacksonville Area. They are currently accepting new referrals depending on insurance coverage.

Website: <https://www.autismlearningpartners.com/> Phone: 855-361-3982

Brooks Rehab offers pediatric occupational, physical, and speech therapy.

Website: <https://www.brooksrehab.org/services/pediatrics-rehabilitation>

Phone: 904-345-7277

Schools:

Oak Hill Academy is a public school specifically for children diagnosed with Autism.

Website: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/oakhill>

Phone: 904-573-1130

The Jacksonville School for Autism enrolls children as early as three years old.

Website: <https://www.jsakids.org/>

Phone: 904-732-4343

Reach Academy is K-12 school for children with Autism.

Website: <https://www.reachacademymyjax.com/>

Phone: 904-238-9111

Mainspring Academy admits students with Autism aged five to young adults.

Website: <https://www.mainspringacademy.org/>

Phone: 904-503-0344

*** Private schools combine private pay, insurance, grants, and special education scholarships to aid tuition.

Autism & Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

Information:

Applied Behavioral analysis (ABA) is used to target the acquisition of developmentally appropriate skills across settings- particularly social, communication, and daily living skills at home, school, and in the community as well as to reduce problem behaviors.

The ABA process will begin with a Functional Behavioral Analysis conducted by a board-certified Behavioral Analyst. The behavioral analyst should be provided with a copy of the Autism evaluation. The behavioral analyst will create a report and treatment plan at home, clinic, and school.

Since symptoms will impair learning and academic performance, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and/or a 504 Plan with specific accommodations are warranted.

An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) should be consistently monitored for progress and the effectiveness of the interventions. It is important to have continued interventions to acquire foundational and functional academic skills, helping decrease behavioral problems and increase age-appropriate, motor, play, and social skills.

A structured classroom environment with individual attention is important. The classroom setting should have a low student-to-teacher ratio to ensure appropriate learning and a program to accommodate social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

A predictable routine with transitions and follow-through may reduce anxiety. Changes in the normal routine should be introduced gradually, giving your child time to acclimate and prepare.

A highly structured environment and parent training will help parents learn how to incorporate the needed structure into their home, trips into the public settings and manage anxieties and problem behaviors when routines change.

Children should be closely monitored by a speech and language pathologist and receive the necessary therapy to help to improve expressive and receptive language skills. Occupational therapy services help to improve motor skills (example- Visual-motor integration) and self-care skills.

Your child should receive consistent follow-up assessments to monitor their progress.

Northeastern Early Steps is a medical service program with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. NES offers developmentally supportive early intervention services for infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age with developmental delays or who may be at risk of developmental delay. NES serves families in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, Baker, and Bradford counties.

Website: <https://pediatrics.med.jax.ufl.edu/patient-care/early-steps-program>

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Developmental disability is a broad term that refers to various conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. Chapter 393, Florida Statutes, defines developmental disabilities as Spina Bifida, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Prader-Willi Syndrome, and Intellectual Disabilities.

Website: <https://apd.myflorida.com/>

Phone: 866-273-2273