

What signs do trained professionals look for in children with autism?

- Avoids eye contact
- No big smiles or other warm, joyous expressions by 6 months
- No back and forth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by 9 months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back and forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No meaningful, two-word phrases (not including imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Upset by minor changes
- Hand flapping, rocking back and forth
- Unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel
- ANY loss of speech, babbling, or social skills

These are signs of autism but do not necessarily mean your child has an autism diagnosis. If you are concerned about your child and think autism is a possibility, speak with your family doctor or pediatrician for a screening to rule out any medical concerns. You will need a referral from your primary care provider in order to access autism services at NLCMHA.

Whom to Contact

If an individual is at immediate risk of seriously harming themselves or someone else call 911

•
For crisis call 1-833-295-0616 (TTY 711)

•
To access services call (231) 922-4850 or 1-800-492-5742 or one of the four offices listed below

•
To access Substance Use Disorders Services call NMRE 1-800-834-3393

•
For Customer Services call 1-800-337-8598

OFFICE HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM-5 PM

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

105 Hall Street, Suite A Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 922-4850

2715 South Townline Road Houghton Lake, MI 48629 (989) 366-8550

527 Cobb Street Cadillac, MI 49601 (231) 775-3463

204 Meadows Drive Grayling, MI 49738 (989) 348-8522

northernlakescmh.org

If you speak a language other than English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call Customer Services 1-800-337-8598 (TTY 711).

Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority (NLCMHA) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. NLCMHA is a member of Northern Michigan Regional Entity (www.nmre.org) and receives its principal funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This information was reviewed by consumers.

April 2022



Autism Services

Specialized program for youth ages birth to 21 Years



www.northernlakescmh.org

What is ABA Therapy?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an Evidence Based Practice, which means it is a treatment that has proven to be effective.

ABA is based on decades of research and is endorsed by the U.S. Surgeon General, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychological Association and more!

ABA occurs in the home and/or in a clinic-based setting by a Behavioral Technician who is closely following the plan written by a credentialed Behavior Consultant.

Applied Behavior Analysis :

- Teaches imitation
- Establishes play behaviors
- Integrates family into treatment
- Increases social skills
- Improves receptive language
- Improves functional communication
- Reduces disruptive behaviors
- Helps children reach their full potential

Who is eligible for Autism Services at NLCMHA?

- Youth under 21 years of age
- Youth who meet the diagnostic criteria for an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Youth who have Medicaid benefits

The benefit includes Applied Behavioral Analysis services at two different levels: Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) is a more intense level of services (16-25 hours per week); Focused Behavioral Intervention (FBI) is a less intense level of services (5-15 hours per week).

The First Steps: Assessment & Diagnosis

First, ask your primary care physician for a pre-screening to rule out any medical concerns and ask your PCP for a referral. Next, to access services at NLCMHA, call (231) 922-4850 or 1-800-492-5742.

A diagnostic evaluation is conducted by a licensed professional.

It is important to note that your child may or may not be diagnosed as having Autism Spectrum Disorder during this process. If your child is not diagnosed, he/she may still be eligible for other services through NLCMHA based on medical necessity including but not limited to a case manager,

family training, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. A diagnosis of Autism does not guarantee eligibility of ABA services.

What is autism spectrum disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. We do not know yet exactly what causes ASD, but we do know it is not related to vaccinations.

There is usually nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged.

Parent/Caregiver Participation

Evidence shows that children will have better outcomes when there is a high level of parental involvement. We provide education and training that will help parents and caregivers to implement treatment at home and become equal members of the treatment team.