

ABA for ASD at school

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Behavioral Pediatrics

- Diagnosing and treating problems in the brain that impact behavior
 - Anxiety
 - ADHD
 - Autism Spectrum
 - Chronic lack of sleep
- I collaborate with anyone who can help my patients
(schools, therapists, universities, daycares, BCW, PIP, families)

Autism Spectrum Disorder Simplified

***Ineffective social communication** (tone, body language, jokes, eye contact)

***Impaired relationships** (no friends, loner, bullying)

-**Restricted interests** (video games, arithmetic, sports scores)

-**Repetitive behaviors** (phrases, routines)

-**Inflexibility** (avoids anything new, schedule-driven)

-**Sensory issues** (sound, food texture, temperature, fabric)

*required

Applied Behavior Analysis (treatment for ASD)

- Using what happens right before and right after to help change behavior
- Creates motivation for a desirable behavior
- Requires thorough understanding of autism spectrum
- BCBA is the certification needed to develop an ABA treatment plan
- Trained individuals (like paraprofessionals in a classroom) then implement the plan
- Georgia has only 333 BCBA*s
- Georgia has 17,000 children receiving Medicaid with ASD*

* per multiagency state autism collaborative

Bring ABA to rural schools

- Only a few schools offer ABA (5 of my 30 counties)
- Could be regional at first (like GNET schools are regional)
- Schools already provide Speech, Occupational and Physical therapy

Who pays for this ABA?

- Medicaid!
- There is already \$71M of funding in place
- DCH is working hard to find providers of ABA

How is this a rural development issue?

Rural colleges and universities should offer BCBA certification

- Most graduates settle within 100 miles of where they train
- Easier to attract qualified masters-level trained SpEd teachers, STs, OTs, MSWs and counsellors if they train near where they live

Encourage rural academic institutions to start programs!