



# Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention

Achieving Milestones



## Welcome to AAI

Welcome to Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention (AAI). Thank you for taking the time to explore what we offer. At AAI, you're not just choosing an autism service provider—you're stepping into a compassionate community that deeply understands the challenges and joys that come with raising and educating children with autism.

We've built a culture where your family's journey is supported by a team of dedicated professionals who not only believe in doing things the right way but also strive to make every step forward as meaningful as possible. We pride ourselves on being a place where the voices of our staff, children, and their families are not just heard but are a vital part of everything we do.

Parents often tell us, "AAI has changed our family's life for the better, providing tools and understanding we desperately needed." Our staff echo this sentiment, saying, "Working at AAI is more than a job—it's a chance to make a real difference, with every day bringing new opportunities to learn and grow together."

Here, leadership is woven into every role, from the newest RBT to our most experienced BCBAs. It's about more than just managing—it's about inspiring, teaching, and empowering each other in an environment that champions integrity, growth, and teamwork. Everyone's contribution is valued; everyone's voice matters.

At AAI, we don't just set standards—we exceed them, creating personalized experiences that celebrate the unique potential of each child. Our commitment to providing exceptional care and support is what makes AAI a beacon for families seeking not just services but a true partner in their child's development.

Join us, and let's celebrate each milestone together. At AAI, you're home.



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## How AAI is Different

At Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention (AAI), we have consciously moved away from traditional, compliance-based, predetermined 40-hour/week ABA service model. We believe that every child deserves a personalized approach that respects their individuality, autonomy, and right to happiness. Unlike traditional models that may adopt a rigid, one-size-fits-all methodology, our approach at AAI is play-based, flexible and responsive. We conduct thorough, individualized assessments and craft tailored recommendations that actively involve parents every step of the way.

We place significant emphasis on empowering families. Through comprehensive parent training programs, we equip families with the necessary tools and knowledge to extend the benefits of therapy into the home and everyday life. Our services are delivered across various settings—homes, schools, clinics, and community locations—to ensure skills are applied and generalized in the environments where your child spends their time.

Acknowledging the past shortcomings within the ABA industry, AAI, for the past decade, has been dedicated to setting a new standard. We understand that previous industry practices focused excessively on compliance and demand-based services, often not aligning with the best interests of those we serve. At AAI, we've been committed to learning from these lessons, leading the way forward with integrity and care. Our practices are designed to honor and empower our clients' voice and choices, demonstrating that ABA therapy can be delivered in a more ethical, effective, and genuinely natural manner.

In this field, our commitment to accountability, honesty, and our shared mission makes our work incredibly rewarding. At AAI, you'll find a community that not only supports your child's development but also nurtures a partnership with families to create lasting, positive impacts.



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## What Families Can Expect from AAI

At Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention (AAI), we recognize that selecting an ABA provider is a pivotal decision for families. From the initial contact, families can anticipate a comprehensive support system, characterized by clear communication and a commitment to their child's success. The onboarding process at AAI begins with an initial consultation with our onboarding team, where we'll address any inquiries, explain our services, and assist with navigating insurance and funding options. It is important to note that the authorization process can be lengthy, sometimes requiring families to wait up to two months for approval to begin services. Please be assured that we will advocate vigorously on your behalf, keep you fully informed, and notify you as soon as we are ready to start.

Following the initial consultation, once approved, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) conducts a thorough assessment to pinpoint the child's strengths, challenges, and objectives. We ensure families are integral to the treatment planning process, aligning our therapeutic goals with each child's specific needs and family values. Once the assessment is completed, it is then submitted to your insurance provider. Once the service design (i.e., goals and hours per week of service) is accepted, sessions will begin. Sessions can be conducted at home, in our clinic, in the community, or via telehealth, depending on what best suits the family's preferences and schedule.

Beyond direct therapy, AAI offers structured parent training and consistent support, ensuring families remain informed and empowered. Our dedicated case management system means that each family has a designated BCBA, Lead RBT, and an RBT who all support your child's program and makes necessary adjustments. We maintain open lines of communication through regular meetings, progress updates, and reviews of therapeutic goals to ensure ongoing transparency and collaboration.

We place high expectations on our team and encourage families to actively participate in therapy sessions. For those unable to join the sessions, **we highly recommend engaging in our parent training programs.** Over the years, we have observed a significant acceleration in successful outcomes when families actively engage in these



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training sessions, ensuring the skills and tools provided are generalized outside of the sessions with AAI.

AAI extends its support beyond therapy sessions to help families navigate school accommodations, community resources, and long-term planning for their child's development.

At AAI, we don't just see ourselves as a service provider, but as a partner invested in creating lasting impacts on the lives of the families and individuals we serve. This holistic and flexible approach ensures that when families are fully supported, children thrive.

## **A Powerful Service Design for Parents Eager to Engage: ParentPro**

At Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention (AAI), we are proud to offer a unique telehealth service mode, in addition to our in-home and clinic based services, that has been empowering families for over a decade through comprehensive Parent Training and Intervention: ParentPro. This innovative method, which does not require an RBT, enables parents to actively participate in their child's development by administering the service themselves.

This telehealth approach allows us to support families across all regions of the state, ensuring accessibility and convenience regardless of location. This service model is built on two key components: training and coaching. First, we provide parents with training that mirrors the extensive instruction we give our RBTs. This equips parents with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support their child's development across various environments, ensuring consistent and effective support.

Second, we provide hands-on coaching during telehealth sessions with their children. For example, a typical arrangement might include sessions scheduled for 2 hours per day, 5 days a week—this is just an example and can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of each family. During these sessions, parents receive real-time interactions with the BCBA, allowing them to engage directly with their children under professional guidance. This setup not only enables parents to apply the strategies they've learned but also allows the BCBA to provide immediate direction and assistance, making the



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sessions both educational and impactful. It's important for parents to fully understand both the training and coaching aspects of this service design, as each plays a crucial role in the effectiveness of the support provided. The success of this model is reflected in the significant gains reported by families in their ability to support their children's development and manage challenging behaviors. The feedback we receive consistently highlights the real, measurable benefits of our approach, reinforcing its effectiveness.

Understanding the need for flexibility, our telehealth model is designed to provide additional support, outside of the prescheduled sessions, such as during family outings or special events, ensuring help is available when most needed.

By embracing this service design, families access a well-established toolkit that enhances their child's growth and overall well-being in a holistic manner, empowering not just the child but the entire family.

## **What is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)?**

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a scientific approach to understanding and changing behavior. At its core, ABA focuses on how behavior is influenced by the environment and how learning occurs. It is widely used to support individuals with autism and other developmental differences by teaching meaningful skills and reducing behaviors that are deemed harmful to the child.

ABA is based on positive reinforcement, which means increasing behaviors that are beneficial and socially meaningful by rewarding them in a way that motivates the individual. This can include communication skills, social interactions, self-care, and independence in daily activities.

True modern ABA has evolved significantly and is centered around individualized, play-based, and child-led learning. The goal is not compliance but empowerment—helping individuals develop skills that improve their quality of life while respecting their autonomy and personal choices. ABA is flexible and adaptable, meaning strategies are adjusted based on the person's needs, interests, and strengths.



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"ABA is a way of teaching and supporting individuals by understanding how they learn and what motivates them. It helps build meaningful skills through encouragement, play, and natural learning opportunities while reducing barriers to independence."

At AAI, we prioritize an ethical and child-centered approach to ABA, ensuring that therapy is enjoyable, respectful, and meaningful for every individual we serve.

## **What is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)?**

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) is a graduate-level certification in behavior analysis. BCBAs receive their certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Professionals who earn this credential are required to have a minimum of a master's degree in psychology, education, behavior analysis, or a related field. Additionally, they must complete specific coursework in behavior analysis, gain supervised practical experience, and pass the BCBA examination.

BCBAs are trained to develop, implement, and evaluate quality behavior analytic services to individuals in various settings like schools, workplaces, and homes. They work with clients to assess behavior, develop and implement intervention plans, monitor progress, and make necessary adjustments to their approach. BCBAs also often supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), ensuring high standards of practice in the field.

## **What is a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)?**

A Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) is a paraprofessional who practices under the close, ongoing supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA. The RBT certification is also issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). This role requires a high school diploma, completion of a 40-hour training program, passing a competency assessment, and a background check.

RBTs are responsible for the direct implementation of behavior-analytic services, but they do not design intervention or assessment plans. Their work includes following the treatment plans developed by the supervising BCBA to deliver direct behavioral





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interventions that help manage and develop new skills for clients. RBTs work directly with clients to implement the interventions and collect data on the interventions' effectiveness, which they report back to their supervising BCBA for further analysis and planning.

## Closing Thoughts

At Autism, Advocacy, and Intervention (AAI), we know that finding the right support for your child is a deeply personal journey. That's why we go beyond the traditional role of an ABA provider to become a trusted partner in your child's growth and development. We understand the challenges you face—from the wait for service authorization to finding a program that truly fits your child's needs. With AAI, you are not just choosing a service; you are joining a community that listens, understands, and acts with your family's best interests at heart. Our dedicated team is here to support you every step of the way, adapting our approaches to suit your child's unique personality and potential. By fostering a caring environment that values collaboration and empowerment, we ensure that your family's journey with AAI is not only successful but also filled with play and understanding. Together, let's nurture your child's individuality and celebrate every milestone along the way.

Kindest,

AAI

