

Green Box ABA

Parent Newsletter



What's News?

Can you believe that it has been a full year since the beginning of coronavirus restrictions? With many precautions in place and an emphasis on safety, we have been able to continue ABA therapy services both to those families who chose to continue in-person services and to provide support through telehealth to those families who sheltered. The goal will always be to provide for your child's therapy needs within the current environment and we will continue adapting as needed.

Transitions

Schools are now re-opened for in-person instruction (or at least partially) and other activities are beginning to slowly resume, as well. As much as your children will benefit from return to previous routines and activities outside the home, you may need to be prepared for those transitions to also present some difficulties. Reach out to your Behavior Analyst for guidance if your child is struggling with those transitions.

Summer

And while spring has only just officially started, many of us are also looking ahead to summer. While we cannot make promises about additional therapist or session availability this summer, this would be a great time to start a conversation with your behavior analyst about whether your child would benefit from additional sessions or sessions in the clinic this summer. It is also important for us to be aware of any changes that would impact your child's current schedule.

Tricare Changes

Tricare recently issued updates to ABA services through the Autism Care Demonstration. There is a lot to unpack but check out page 2, where we highlight the changes that you can expect over the next 6 months.

Accolades Appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who contributed "Kudos" to your therapist(s). We compiled all of your comments and shared them on a bulletin board in our staff lounge. It meant a lot to us (and your therapist) that you took the time to share some praise and encouragement, especially after such a long and stressful 12 months. We happen to think our therapists are pretty awesome people. We also hope that you have been enjoying the "Meet Our Staff" newsletter feature. There is a new installment on Page 3 (Meet Gaby!).



The Kudos board in our staff break room!

Parent Educational Workshop

Our next parent workshop, "It's For Attention" will explore "attention-seeking" behavior, why it persists, and strategies that can lead to a more peaceful family life. We hope that you will be able to join us live. But, if not, recordings of our workshops can be found on the website and on our YouTube channel.

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Inside this issue:

<i>New Tricare Requirements</i>	2
<i>Meet Our Staff: Gaby</i>	3
<i>Contact Us</i>	4

Parent Educational Workshop

It's For Attention

Saturday, April 24, 2021 9:00—10:00am

Via Zoom


Drop-in Zoom meetings:

Saturday, April 3
9:00-10:00am

Monday, April 5
6:30-8:00pm

Zoom links will be sent in advance of the Q & A. No need to register or to stay for the entire meeting—you can just drop-in.

Questions can be submitted in advance of the Q & A to:

bkaminski@greenboxaba.com

Unpacking the Tricare Changes

On March 24, Tricare released a new “Operations Manual” for the Autism Care Demonstration. There were many changes, all designed to improve the care received by beneficiaries. Some of the changes will apply only to those entering the program after October 1. However, there are changes that may modify your experience with ABA services. Below, we highlight the major changes:

Testing Requirements

- Outcome testing (Vineland, SRS) will move to a yearly cycle (currently every 2 years), this will be effective after your child’s next scheduled outcome testing.
- A Parental Stress Index test is being added to the 6-month reauthorization testing. We will begin sending this test at the same time as the required PDDBI test.

Parent Resources and Requirements

Additional support and resources will be available to families:

- Voluntary case management services available upon request for beneficiaries registered in ECHO.
- Humana and / or the Case Manager will be responsible for: facilitating connections with local level resources, assisting families in accessing available respite service options, providing education resources about ASD, information about parent-mediated programs.
- Family ABA Training is required at least 6 times per authorization period. Failure to meet that requirement for 2 consecutive 6-month authorization periods will result in non-renewal of services.
- Group Family ABA Training will be allowed. A portion of the family

training requirement can be satisfied through attending group training (beginning Oct 1, our Saturday workshops would qualify!)

- Recognizing that your involvement in treatment is essential to your child’s progress, measurable family goals and involvement will continue to be required and in addition, objective measures of progress must be included in each report. These will be agreed upon with your Behavior Analyst.

Care Coordination

There is greater emphasis on coordination between providers. You will be asked for more detailed information about other services and treatments (including medications) in order to ensure coordination.

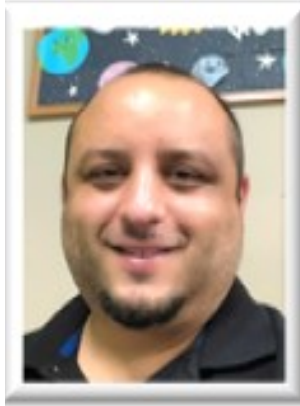
ABA Therapy

- Effective 5/1, no new school-based services will be authorized. School-based service can continue until the end of a current authorization.
- ABA delivery in community settings (including accompanying the child to doctor’s appointments, haircuts, etc., and organized community events such as sports & camps) is not allowed. Strategies and support for families may be included as a part of parent training and family goals.
- Teaching basic daily living skills (for example, brushing teeth) is not allowed. Strategies and support for families may be included as a part of parent training and family goals.

Drop-in Zoom meetings are scheduled for Saturday, April 3 @ 9 –10am and Monday, April 5 @ 6:30—8:00pm for all families who would like to drop in and ask questions about the changes.

Meet Our Staff!

Meet Gaby!



How do you describe your job?

Teaching skills that help people have higher quality relationships in their lives and that create more opportunities for happiness and fulfillment.

What are some of your favorite things to do while you are not at work?

Ride my bike, play guitar, and try new restaurants.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Sail a boat around somewhere beautiful.

Who would you most like to swap places with for a day?

The President of the U.S. because I am sure the secrets I'd learn would be fascinating.

If you could visit anywhere in the world you've never been, where would you go?

One of my bucket list items is to bike The Great Divide Trail through the Rocky Mountains.

What is your secret talent that no one knows about?

I've played guitar for 20 years but haven't had a reason to play before anyone in awhile.

Where did you grow up?

Springfield, VA



Gaby is one of the four friends who grew up in Springfield and became the inspiration for the Green Box Kids characters. Here is Tito, the character inspired by Gaby.

Which 4 people (living or dead), would you most like to eat dinner with?

The grandfather I never met, the one that passed when I was very young, Carl Sagan, and Leonardo DaVinci.

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

BBQ Ribs, of course.



Learn more about the history of Green Box ABA and the Green Box Kids at our [website](#)

Communication

To make sure that your needs and questions are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, please use the following guide:

General questions about services:

Main Office: greenboxaba@gmail.com; 571-297-4308

Cancellations:

Contact your therapists and BCBA/BCaBA

Questions/issues related to copays/invoices:

Main Office: greenboxaba@gmail.com; 571-297-4308

Clinical Administration:

Required testing

Service authorizations

Clinical Assistant: tmcrae@greenboxaba.com; 571-297-4308

Scheduling:

Scheduling Specialist: msauter@greenboxaba.com; 571-297-4308

Clinical and behavioral concerns:

Your BCBA/BcaBA

Management is also available, in the event that an issue cannot be resolved with the departments above. Contact the main office to speak with or leave a message for:

Carl Dzyak, CEO

Chris Richardson, COO

Barbara Kaminski, Clinical Director

