

Green Box ABA

Parent Newsletter



What's New?

It's officially summer. The cicadas are singing their last songs. Temperatures are heating up. Oh. Sorry. You want [ABA](#) news!

Tricare Updates

Since April we have been consistently updating our services to meet the Tricare changes announced this spring. Some of those changes have already gone into effect (such as restrictions on services in academic settings) and others will be in effect soon. The changes that will be affecting services July—October include:

- Outcome testing (Vineland-3 and SRS-2) switches to a 1 year cycle. Also, if you are interested in having your testing completed by Green Box and you haven't signed up for our automatic reminder and testing procedure, contact tmcrae@greenboxaba.com for more info.
- The Parental Stress Index or Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents will be due at every 6-month authorization (beginning August 1).
- Family ABA Training will be 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, when they resume in-person this winter.

As always, we are available to answer questions, or direct you to sources who can. Contact Dr. Kaminski at bkaminski@greenboxaba.com or call the main office (571-297-4308).

COVID procedures

Restrictions are lifting in many settings and, like everyone else, we are personally celebrating the progressive return to "normal."

Green Box ABA, however, falls under the umbrella of health care services. As an essential health care service, we were able to keep services in place — whether virtual parent services or direct in-person therapy—throughout the pandemic these past 16 months. It also means that we follow guidance specific to health care settings. So, for now, our staff will continue to wear masks, both in homes and in the clinic building, and we ask the same of adults entering the building. You will receive notice of any changes, as we are continually monitoring the guidance for health care providers.

Summer

By this point in the year, you should have heard from the Scheduling Coordinator about any changes in your summer schedule. If not, and you would like to discuss possible changes, please reach out to msauter@greenboxaba.com.

Fall Parent Educational Workshop

Our quarterly Parent Educational Workshop for fall will focus on tips for a smoother transition back to full-time in-person school. Our workshops are FREE, open to all parents, and recorded for those who can't attend live. Watch your email for your invitation!

Subscribe to our YouTube channel (Green Box ABA). Feel free to share our YouTube resources with other parents, family, or friends!

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Parent Educational Workshop
The Wheels on the Bus GO...
Tips for Back-to-School
Saturday, August 14, 2021 9:00–10:00am
Via Zoom

Contacting Us!

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:

greenboxaba@gmail.com
571-297-4308

Cancellations:

Contact your therapists and BCBA/BCaBA

Questions/issues related to copays/invoices:

greenboxaba@gmail.com
571-297-4308

Clinical Administration:

- Required testing
 - Service authorizations
- tmcrae@greenboxaba.com
571-297-4308

Scheduling:

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

Clinical/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

Resources!

Hopefully, ABA is only one of the support services your family is using. Many of our kids can also benefit from recreational activities, ideally in a supportive environment. And you, the parents, need support, too! Below is a (non-comprehensive) list of recreation and parent support resources.

- **The ARC of NOVA**, <https://thearcfnova.org> is a great resource. Each ARC location offers unique services. They have a lot of resources on the website and some workshops on YouTube. They offer many workshops that may be attended in person, zoom in, and/or recorded.
- **The Jewish Community Center (JCC)** offers workshops for parents, social skills groups, swimming lessons, and summer camps for the kids! <https://www.thej.org/specialneeds/classes-and-social-clubs/>
- In the summer, Fairfax County offers “**Rec-PAC**” for students in 1st to 6th grade. This is like a summer camp and it can offer good opportunities for working on his social skills. Registration and activities are limited this year, due to continued restrictions, but you can still check out the program and others at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes>
- FCPS participates in the **Best Buddies** program which connects a special education student with a peer. This program is open to students aged 14-22, but check with your own school to make sure that they have the program in place. <https://www.bestbuddies.org/vadc/>
- **Autism Society of Northern Virginia** (<https://www.asnv.org>) and **Parents of Autistic Children** (<https://poac-nova.org>) are local groups that offer support and workshops.
- **FCPS** offer workshops throughout the year. They also have groups for siblings (such as SibShops). **FCPS Parent Resource Center** / **Email:** prc@fcps.edu / **Phone:** 703-204-3941
- Sports and recreation offerings include Fairfax County **ParkTakes** (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes>) and **Special Olympics** (<https://www.specialolympicsva.org/>). Check them out!
- The “**Military Career Resources**” on the new Exceptional Parent website at <http://www.eparent.com> has a lot of info for active-duty and retired military families. Register online to get their magazine for FREE.
- **Veteran Tickets Foundation** gives out free event tickets to all kinds of things all across the country (events such as football, baseball, soccer, basketball, concerts, zoo passes, plays and more! You can sign up at <http://www.VetTix.org/ref/93149/Vet>. When you do, and verify your service, you will get an additional 12 VetTix Lottery Coins to start off with!

Know of other resources we can share in the next newsletter? Send an email to Dr. Kaminski (bkaminski@greenboxaba.com) and she will add it to our resource list.