

## OUR ABA PHILOSOPHY

We believe that every child can meet his or her full potential through individualized data-driven one-to-one therapy based on the science of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). We also believe that a child's motivation is a key element to learning. Our program is built on increasing crucial cusp skills: in other words, skills that, once acquired, open doors for a myriad of additional experiences and learning opportunities. These early foundational skills include joint attention, requesting wants and needs, cooperation, and imitation of others. Programming is based on thorough assessment of the child's current skills and barriers. Our program highlights 'verbal behavior' (Skinner), an approach to language that has a solid empirical foundation in the methodology of ABA.

At the onset of therapy, our first goal is to ensure that our clients are comfortable and happy at our center. To achieve this, our staff will spend time "pairing" with each student. The pairing process consists of staff spending time engaging in high-preference activities with the student and providing them with non-contingent (free) reinforcement. The types of activities and reinforcement used will be based on each child's individual preferences. Once the child is excited to come to session, we know pairing has been successful and we will begin targeted work on increasing needed early learning skills.

Our philosophy is that the learner is never wrong. We collect and analyze data on a daily basis to ensure that your child is making progress towards the treatment goals outlined in his or her treatment plan. If our analysis shows that your child is not making progress, we will modify instruction to find the best way to teach him or her. Instructional modification may include using identifying and changing reinforcement, using different materials to present instruction, arranging learning environment differently, and/or other evidence-based strategies.

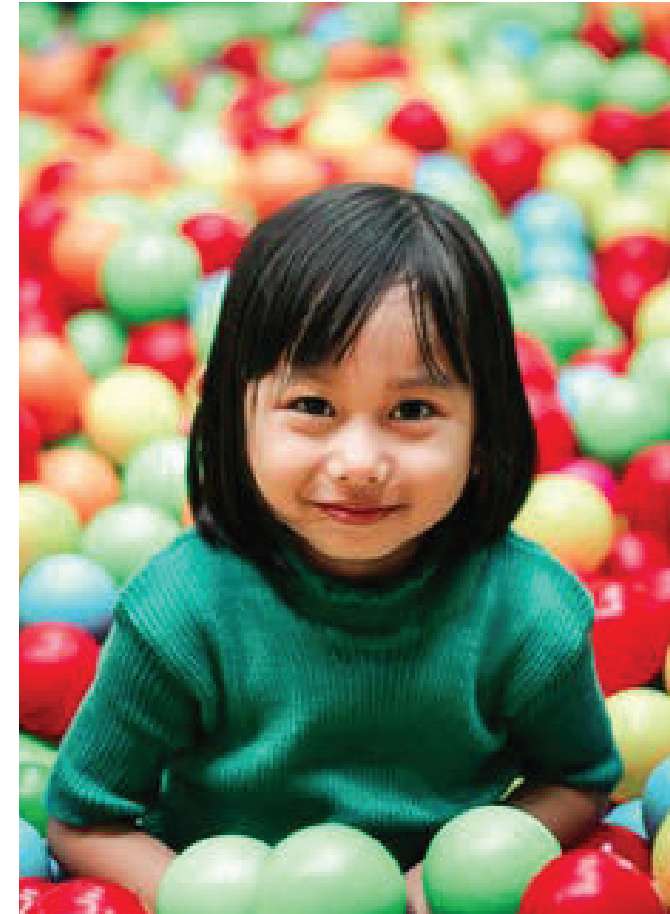


## CENTER LOCATIONS

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The SD Sparklers at SD Associates is a center-based program utilizing evidence-based practices in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to build learning and language skills in young children with autism spectrum disorder. We believe that, given systematic intensive early intervention, young children can build a strong foundation for lifelong learning that makes a significant difference in their lives. We believe that partnership with families is a central piece of any treatment program.

## TREATMENT STRUCTURE

Each child will have a treatment team consisting of a BA (Behavior Analyst), RBTs (Registered Behavior Technicians) and of course, parents and caregivers. We believe in coordination with other service providers who may be in the lives of the family, including school districts. Collaboration is key to a child's outcome.

Each child's sessions will be highly individualized based on needs. Components of a program could include elements of a number of teaching strategies based in the science of ABA. These include but are not limited to applied verbal behavior training, natural environment teaching, and/or discrete trial instruction. Elements of your child's session will be spent in play-based activities utilizing natural reinforcement, while other students may require more structured teaching at a table and extrinsic reinforcement systems to initially learn new skills. Most children benefit from elements of both approaches. No matter what ABA approach clinically works best for your child, we keep functional communication at the forefront of our program.



## PARENT PARTICIPATION

We find parent/caregiver training to be a crucial component of any therapeutic program. This includes training of families and caregivers on basics of ABA and foundations of the treatment plan so they may become competent in supporting the goals of the treatment plan across home and community environments. In addition, insurance companies and Medicaid require parent/caregiver training as a component to all ABA services. We will teach your child skills in the clinic setting, but parent involvement will be necessary to ensure that these skills are generalized to your child's natural environment.

Like your child's ABA therapy, parent/caregiver training schedules will be individualized based on the needs of your child and family. We do, however, require a minimum of two parent training sessions per month. Parent training may occur in individual or group settings and may take place at the S<sup>D</sup> office or in your home or community, depending on the needs.

## FUNDING SOURCES

We operate under a variety of funding sources, including schools, private insurance plans, and Medicaid.

