APOLLO BEHAVIOR · FOR GEORGIA FAMILIES

First steps after an autism diagnosis

A short guide for the first few weeks: what to do, who to call, how ABA therapy is paid for in Georgia, and what to ask a provider.

1 This week

Focus on four things. You don't have to do them in order.

1 Get the written report

Ask the evaluator for the full report on their letterhead. It's usually ready 1 to 2 weeks after the visit. Check that it lists the diagnosis and code, the tests used and the evaluator's credentials. Insurance, schools and therapy providers will ask for it.

2 Call your insurance

Use the number on the back of your card. Ask if your plan covers ABA therapy, whether you need a referral or approval first, and which ABA providers near you are in network.

3 Ask for a referral

Most plans want a doctor's referral or prescription for ABA. Ask your pediatrician or the doctor who made the diagnosis to send one.

4 Call ABA providers

Ask how soon your child can start, whether they take your insurance, where therapy happens, and who supervises your child's program. The questions on page 2 help.

2 Paying for ABA therapy in Georgia

Private insurance

Many Georgia health plans cover ABA therapy for autism, but each plan sets its own rules for approvals and hours. If a request is denied, ask how to appeal.

Tricare

Tricare East covers ABA for military families through the Autism Care Demonstration.

Georgia Medicaid

Covers autism services, including ABA therapy, for children and young adults under 21. The ABA provider asks Medicaid for approval before therapy starts.

Katie Beckett (TEFRA)

Lets a child with a serious disability get Georgia Medicaid without counting family income. For children 18 or younger who live at home. Apply through the Centralized Katie Beckett team at 678-248-7449, your county DFCS office, or gateway.ga.gov.

Sources: Georgia Department of Community Health, Autism Spectrum Disorder services and TEFRA/Katie Beckett program pages. Insurance rules change; confirm details with your plan.

3 Questions to ask an ABA provider

- [ ] How soon can my child start?
- [ ] Do you take my insurance, and will you check my benefits for me?
- [ ] Is therapy at your center, at home, or both?
- [ ] Who supervises my child's program, and how often are they on site?
- [ ] How do you measure my child's progress, and how often will we review it together?
- [ ] How often are sessions cancelled, and what happens when a therapist is out?
- [ ] How will I be involved, and is there parent training?

Insurance call notes

Date and person I spoke with

Reference number

ABA covered? Referral or approval needed?

In-network providers they named

4 Not diagnosed yet?

If your child is on a waitlist for an evaluation, Apollo Behavior offers diagnostic evaluations. Our step-by-step guide to autism diagnosis in Georgia explains how the process works and who can diagnose. Both are at apollobehavior.com.

5 Apollo Behavior at a glance

Where we are

20 ABA therapy centers in Georgia, from Acworth and Johns Creek to Athens, Columbus and Warner Robins. Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

How soon you can start

Most families start therapy 2 to 6 weeks after their first call.

Insurance we accept

Anthem, Cigna, Optum, Kaiser, Aetna and Georgia Medicaid, including Katie Beckett. Columbus and Warner Robins also accept Tricare.

Who works with your child

Therapy happens at our centers, and a BCBA is on site at every center to supervise your child's program.

Call our intake line: 770-200-4001

Or start enrollment at apollobehavior.com/new-clients. We'll check your insurance and walk you through each step.

Find a center near you: apollobehavior.com/locations