

Owner/Executive Director: Lauren Cavalli, MA, BCBA, LBA  
Today's Presenter (Clinical Supervisor): Nikki DeWitt, MA, BCBA, LBA





# Ripple Effects

AUTISM LEARNING CENTER



## South Haven

6321 Blue Star Highway,  
South Haven, MI 49090

-  269-241-2700
-  269-241-2700
-  269-241-2700
-  southhaven@rippleeffectsalc.com



## Centreville

666 E. Main Street, Suite B,  
Centreville, MI 49032

-  269-245-0401
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-  269-245-0401
-  centreville@rippleeffectsalc.com



## Sturgis

706 S. Centerville Road,  
Sturgis, MI 49091

-  269-257-9057
-  269-257-9057
-  269-257-9057
-  sturgis@rippleeffectsalc.com



## Coldwater

350 Marshall Street,  
Coldwater, MI, 49036

-  269-257-9058
-  269-257-9058
-  269-257-9058
-  coldwater@rippleeffectsalc.com



## Portage

2255 W Centre Avenue,  
Portage, MI 49024

-  269-257-9060
-  269-257-9060
-  269-257-9060
-  portage@rippleeffectsinclusion.org



- 5 locations
- Serving children 18 months and up
- Up to 35 hours per week of therapy
- 9am – 4pm, Portage has afternoon/evening hours

# ABA Therapy

At Ripple Effects Autism Learning Centers, we provide personalized, evidence-based Applied-Behavior-Analysis (ABA) services for young children with autism and their families.

Our goals are to:

- Enhance learning paths
- Gradually reduce the need for specialized services
- Ease transitions into traditional schools and social settings

# Parent/Caregiver Guidance and Support

**We partner with families to help children succeed at home and in the community.**

Goals include:

- Equip parents/caregivers with strategies to support children with autism
- Address specific challenges faced by families
- Foster a collaborative partnership between professionals and families



# Specific Goals of ABA

We focus on improving:

- Social skills
- Communication abilities
- Adaptive learning skills

We also aim to:

- Increase the number of learning opportunities for each child
- Prepare children for the transition to kindergarten or least restrictive environment



# Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Based on the science of learning and behavior analysis.

Behavior analysis helps us to understand:

- How behavior works
- How behavior is affected by the environment
- How learning takes place

ABA therapy applies our understanding of how behavior works to real situations.

Goals = increase behaviors that are helpful and decrease behaviors that are harmful or affect learning.



# Applied Behavior Analysis

ABA therapy programs can help:

- Increase language and communication skills
- Improve attention, focus, social skills, memory, and academics
- Decrease problem behaviors

The methods of behavior analysis have been used and studied for decades.





# ABA Treatment Includes

- Individualized assessment, treatment planning and oversight provided by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Up to 35 hours per week of one-on-one intervention provided by a Behavior Technician
- Parents and caregivers receive ongoing training and support
- Skills are broken into tiny steps and practiced repeatedly in multiple environments
- The learner receives an abundance of positive reinforcement for demonstrating useful skills and socially appropriate behaviors.
- The learner receives no reinforcement for behaviors that pose harm or prevent learning

# Applied Behavior Analysis

- More than 20 studies have established that *intensive* and *long-term* therapy using ABA principles improves outcomes for many, but not all, children with autism.
- These studies show gains in intellectual functioning, language development, daily living skills and social functioning
- Early intervention is key to best outcomes



## How is it done?

ABA therapy uses observation, data collection, and the application of the principles of behavior to understand and change behavior, with a focus on teaching practical life skills. It is:

- Flexible and personalized
- Can be provided in various locations (home, school, community)
- Involves one-on-one or group teaching



# Positive Reinforcement

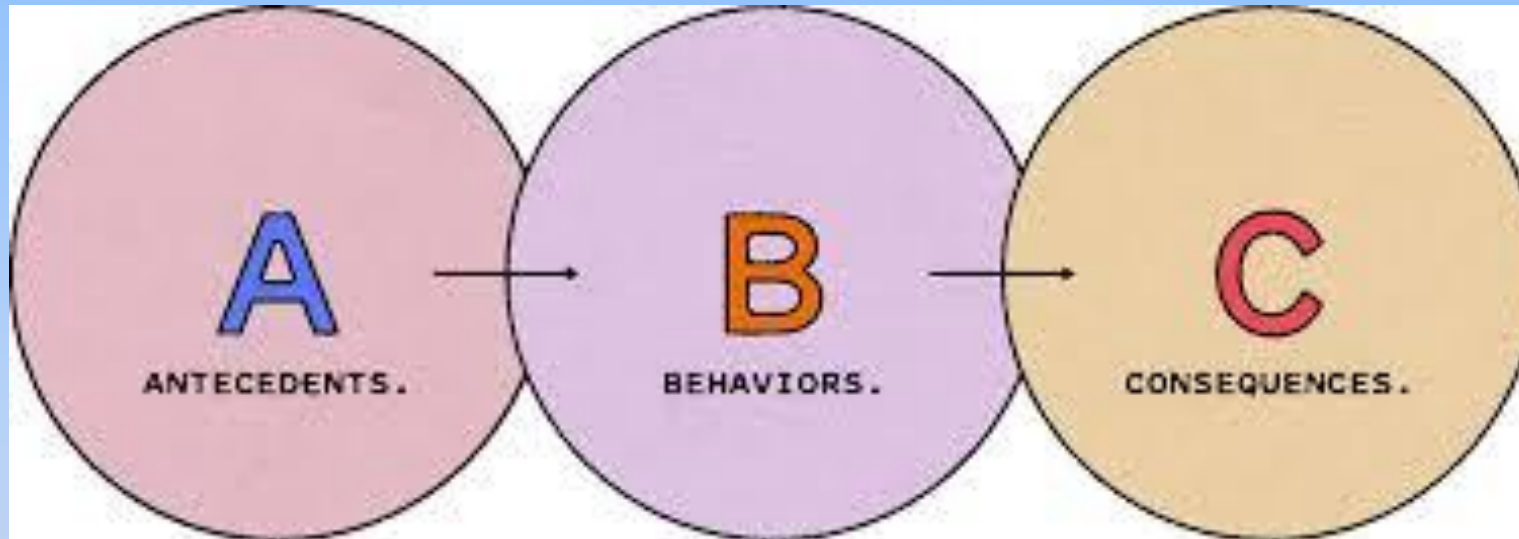
- Increase behavior by using meaningful rewards
- Encourage behavior repetition
- Rewards can include praise, toys, books, etc.
- Over time, this leads to meaningful behavior change.



# The A-B-C Model

Understanding behavior through:

1. **Antecedent:** What happens before the behavior
2. **Behavior:** The person's response to the antecedent
3. **Consequence:** What happens after the behavior



# Planning and Ongoing Assessment

- A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) customizes the ABA program based on skills, needs, interests, and preferences
- Detailed assessments help identify specific treatment goals
- **Regular monitoring of progress** through data collection
- Regular training and monitoring of behavior technicians (1:1)
- **Collaboration with family members is key.**



# Applied Behavior Analysis

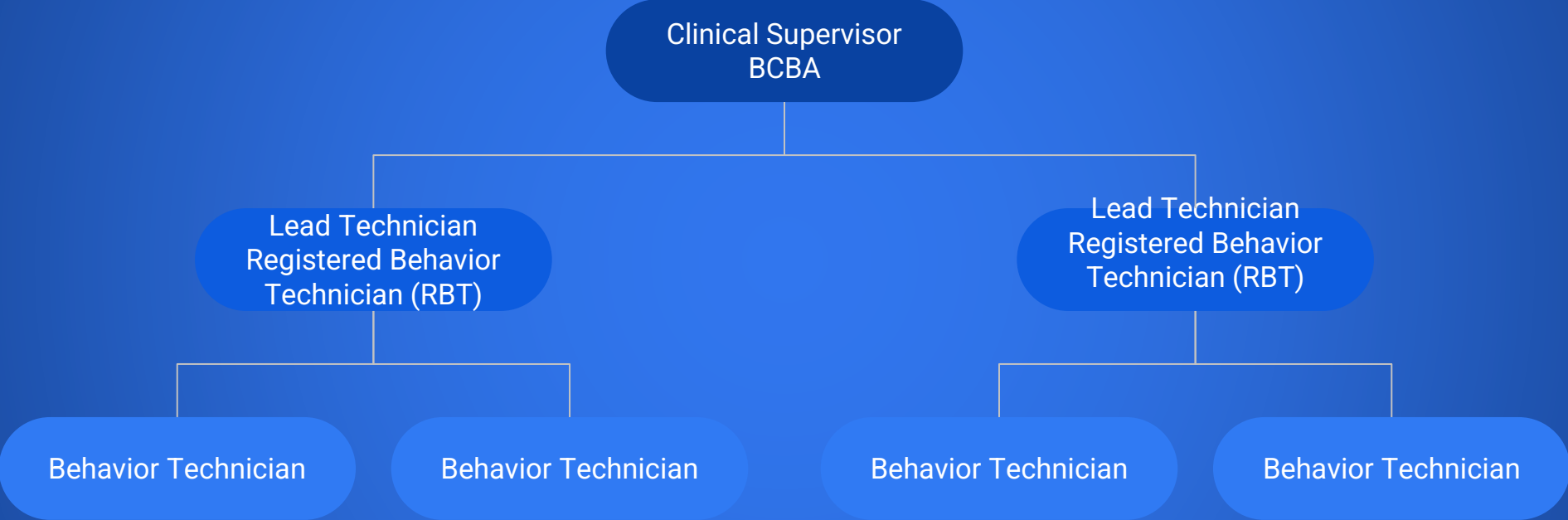
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBI319P2fjQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnkEZaAHGrA>

# Applied Behavior Analysis and Funding

- Michigan Insurance Mandate passed in 2013
  - Most insurance plans cover ABA therapy
  - Employers with self-funded plans are not required to provide coverage
  - Medicaid covers ABA at 100%
- Most insurance companies have strict rules regarding where patients can go to get a diagnosis
  - BCBSM – must go to an Approved Autism Evaluation Center, 18 in the state, some with waitlists over 1 year long
  - Medicaid – must go to Community Mental Health



# Treatment Team



# Treatment Team

## Clinical Supervisors -

### Behavior Analysts (BCBA)

- Master's or Doctoral Level
- Certified by Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB)
  - Assess behavior
  - Set goals
  - Create plans
  - Monitor progress
  - Supervise others
  - Maintain certification
- BCaBA another option

## Behavior Technicians

- 18 years old
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Complete 40 hour training
- Background check

## Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT)

- Pass competency Assessment
- Certification exam (BACB)
- Maintain supervision by BCBA

# Apprenticeship

- Goal: Become a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)
  - Most ABA centers and some insurance companies are requiring this credential
- Apprenticeship Specifications
  - 144 hours of classroom/online content-based instruction
  - 2000 hours of on-the-job training in ABA
  - Mentored by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA), Lead Technician, or seasoned RBT
  - Scheduled wage increases for completing milestones
  - Once an RBT, continue receiving supervision for at least 5% of direct hours with a client
  - Can obtain their RBT at any time during the apprenticeship



**Ripple Effects**  
AUTISM LEARNING CENTER





THE HOLIDAY IS  
STILL GOING ON  
THE WEEKEND IS  
Gone! Busy!

**DAYS OF THE WEEK**

Sunday	Sun.
Monday	Mon.
Tuesday	Tues.
Wednesday	Wed.
Thursday	Thurs.
Friday	Fri.
Saturday	Sat.

**APRIL**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4		

**COUNTDOWN**

1:20	Prin
1:30	Prin
1:40	Spec
1:50	Spec
2:00	Spec
2:10	Spec
2:20	Spec
2:30	Spec
2:40	Spec
2:50	Spec

**AUTISM FACTS**

1 in 54 children is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Autism is a developmental disability that affects the brain. It is a spectrum disorder, meaning that it affects people in different ways and to different degrees.

Autism is a lifelong condition. There is no cure, but there are many ways to help people with autism live better lives.

Autism is more common than you think. It affects people of all ages, ethnicities, and social classes.

Autism is not a disease. It is a difference in the way the brain works.









Diddle Effects

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

LEAST TO MOST







# Virtual Tour

[Tour of Ripple Effects Community Inclusion Center](#)



## Offers:

- Recreational, educational, and social clubs
- Dance
- Art
- Beauty/Hair salon
- Cooking classes
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Social Skills classes
- Music
- Playgroup
- Yoga/fitness
- Respite/Day camps
- Family Support Groups
- Foster and Community Closet
- Give Away Days
- Volunteer opportunities



Coming soon:

- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Preschool
- Before/After School Care
- Cafe
- Apprenticeship for direct care workers
- Training in other languages

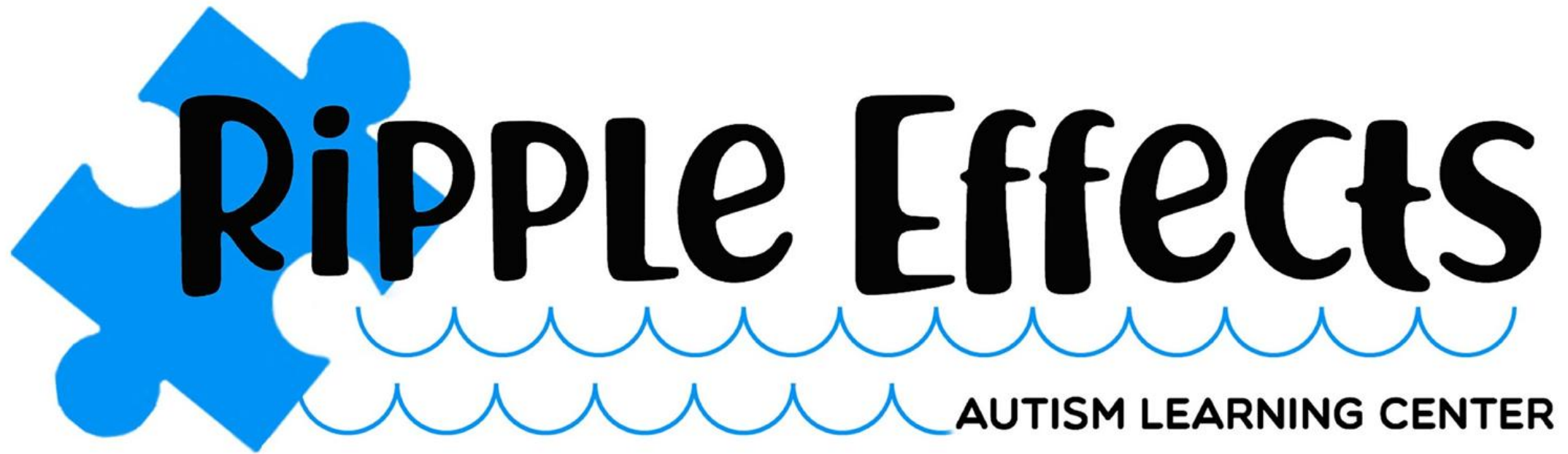
# Facility Resources

Facility Rental available

Calendar of events

Sell apparel and fidgets





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