



Children's TLC

THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTER

On Thursday, April 27th, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced 1 in 68 children have autism. That is a 30% increase from 1 in 88 two years ago. The statistics are staggering. But the good news is kids living with autism in the Kansas City area have more resources than ever before to address their unique needs early. In fact, a new resource has just become available.

In celebration of National Autism Awareness Month (April), Children's Therapeutic Learning Center (Children's TLC) is pleased to announce the launch of its new Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program addressing the autism epidemic. Building on its history of more than 60 years caring for KC children with all kinds of special needs in an integrative educational and therapeutic environment, Children's TLC now provides autism services that are specifically designed to build communication, play skills, social skills and self-help skills while analytically decreasing inappropriate behaviors.

If you are interested in learning more about this new resource to KC-area kids with autism, I would love to arrange a time for you to visit Children's TLC at 31st and Main to speak with a parent, the program lead, or a pediatrician about why this is such an unmet need in Kansas City and how Children's TLC's new program will help young children with autism soar in today's world.

For more information about Children's TLC -- the *only* full-day early childhood special education preschool in KC with five therapies available for integration -- visit childrenstlc.org.

Interviewees Available



Dr. Matthew Reese is a licensed psychologist with more than 25 years of clinical experience. His particular area of expertise is autism and individuals with severe developmental disabilities and behavior problems. He is Director of the Center for Child Health & Development and the Co-Director of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Reese is committed to the philosophy of family center care emphasizing a collaborative role with the family and he honors the values and cultural background of the family.



Dr. Sarah Nyp is a Developmental Pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She specializes in autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit disorders, developmental delay, mental retardation and common behavioral problems.

Dr. Nyp is serving her first term as a member of the Managing Board of Directors at Children's Therapeutic Learning Center.



With over 20 years of experience working with children with special needs, Amy Bruscato joined the Children's Therapeutic Learning Center therapy team after the launch of the organization's new autism services, known as Applied Behavior Analysis. Amy is a certified ABA Implementer and is currently working on her certification towards becoming an Autism Specialist. Amy's passion lies in teaching children the skills they need to become independent and successful.



Charity Goodwin-Rosario, was a first time mother when her son Gabriel received an autism diagnosis in November of 2013. After being flooded with information about the diagnosis, the family found hope at Children's TLC. Gabriel attends the Therapeutic Preschool program where his autism services are integrated into the classroom. Charity believes early intervention is the key to Gabriel's success and his continuous breakthroughs are proving her right.

Additional Statistics

- A cost-benefit analysis done in 1998 demonstrated that providing behavior treatment to all children with autism for three years between the ages of two and six would save approximately \$200,000 per child ages three to 22, and up to \$1,000,000 per child ages 3 to 55.
- By providing children with autism the early intervention services they need, Children's TLC through its new program is developing the potential of children in our community and reducing the educational costs to our society.
- 1 in 54 boys and 1 in 252 girls have autism.
- Autism diagnoses have increased by 78% in the last five years.

About Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

- ABA is the study of behavior and the use of evidence-based techniques to change the rate at which a behavior occurs in the future.
- ABA can be used to teach new behaviors (skills) as well as to reduce maladaptive behaviors.

- Applied “Verbal” Behavior Analysis builds on all the ABA research but places an emphasis on teaching the child to learn functional language. This emphasis is built around finding what is motivating to the child and using this motivation to teach functional language and other skills
- ABA is the only autism intervention that is covered by commercial insurance.
- In Missouri, commercial insurance companies are required to cover ABA services up to \$41,263 per year, per child.

About ABA at Children’s TLC

- At Children’s TLC, ABA services are integrated into an early childhood special education program. Our ABA implementers work with the child in their education environment, and also pull them aside for intense one-on-one therapy.
- Each child is individually assessed by our Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). An individual treatment plan is designed based on the child’s unique needs.
- Children’s TLC implements approximately 20 to 25 hours of ABA therapy per week, per child.
- Children’s TLC provides ABA therapy as part of our Therapeutic Preschool, which offers the only full-day early childhood special education program with five therapies available for integration and convenient extended hours.