



If your child has health insurance through All Kids (Illinois Medicaid) you may have called your Medicaid Managed Care Plan to find an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider after getting a prescription from your child's pediatrician or specialist.

ABA therapy is a listed Medicaid benefit prescribed for children of all ages who have a diagnosis of autism.

Currently, ABA therapy coverage through any of the State's Medicaid Managed Care companies is difficult to locate, however waiting lists exist in a few areas. For families who are seeking ABA therapy for their children, we are hopeful that there will be a wider pool of providers making this therapy more available to families, even though The Arc of Illinois does not endorse any particular therapy.

### **What can you be doing while searching for a Medicaid ABA provider?**

Work with your child's school to ensure that the communication, social and behavioral concerns that may impact your child's education are addressed and included in the IEP.

Discuss alternative options with your child's pediatrician, primary care physician, speech and language professional while looking for a Medicaid ABA provider or on a waiting list with a provider. For example, you may find social skills groups, special recreation programs via a local park district, picture exchange systems, and/or social stories are helpful. See:

- <https://health.ucdavis.edu/news/headlines/help-is-in-your-hands--a-great-resource-for-families-with-young-kids-on-the-autism-spectrum/2020/03>
- <http://echoautism.org/challenging-behavior>
- <https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/npdc-resources>

- [https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/PEP\\_Tips-responding-challenging-behavior.pdf](https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/PEP_Tips-responding-challenging-behavior.pdf)
- [https://cfl.uic.edu/overview/rcadd\\_312-746-5447](https://cfl.uic.edu/overview/rcadd_312-746-5447) Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).
- <https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/afirm-modules> - ABA modules anyone can access and implement
- <https://autismnavigator.com> U of FLA Family Resource at early skill building
- <https://mirrormeonline.org/mirrome-online/> -modules help parents learn how to build their child's reciprocal language

You may want to appeal if you are unable to locate an ABA provider in network for your child. See our Family Guide to Medicaid Managed Care Appeals: **[Family Guide to Medicaid Managed Care Appeals](#)** See also: <https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/MCOGrievanceAndAppealsProcess.pdf>

Contact your legislator regarding the limited or insufficient options for ABA services for children covered by Medicaid (All Kids). You can locate your state representative and state senator here:

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx?T=637535664882677338>

## General Resources for Special Education Information

- Illinois State Board of Education Parent Rights Guide: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Parent-Guide-Special-Ed-Aug20.pdf>
- Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center (outside of Chicago (all counties not listed as covered by Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) below: [www.fmptic.org](http://www.fmptic.org)
- Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) (Chicago-Cook county and DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties): [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)
- Equip for Equality Special Education Help Line: 866-543-7046; <https://www.equipforequality.org/issues/special-education/>
- CPS Office of Diverse Learners: <https://www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/parent-engagement/parents-of-diverse-learns/parent->

[involvement-specialists](#) Kimberly Johnson Evans, Parent Involvement Specialist: 773-553-1845

- Raise Your Hand Illinois: Special Education Toolkit for CPS families:  
[https://www.ilraiseyourhand.org/special\\_education\\_toolkit](https://www.ilraiseyourhand.org/special_education_toolkit)