



## **ABA: Applied Behavior Analysis Focus**

All children are unique and require individual attention. Our center customizes ABA to the needs of each child. ABA is structured and builds upon a child's strengths using repetitive learning and positive reinforcement. Parent involvement is very important so that the children can generalize what they learn through ABA into other environments including school and developing social relationships.

ABA is a behavioral conditioning technique that provides repetitive trial behavior teaching. Trial methods teach specific behaviors. It is very clear to the child what behavior is expected of him/her and consistent positive reinforcement aids in learning the behavior. The program covers 3 components: the discriminating stimulus (SD), is the instruction given to the child; the response (R), the child's response to the instruction; and the reinforcing stimulus (SR), the reinforcement given to the child. This technique can be used to teach social/play skills, language skills, self help/self awareness skills, and academic skills

ABA underscores that the environment is closely linked with behavior and that consequences have an effect upon behavior. If a behavior is followed by pleasant event/positive reinforcement, then it will occur more often. In the 1970's Ivar Lovaas from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) conducted research using these behavioral principles. He and his colleagues pioneered ABA using behavioral principles in treating children with Autism. Some of his design included working in the child's home environment. Lovaas' research revealed that "47% of children who received 35-40 hours of 1:1 behavioral intervention in their home demonstrated an increase of 30 IQ points and were indistinguishable from their peers when placed in a school setting" (Lovass, 1987-1993).