

Meet the Touchstone Team This month's BCBA is...

**Paula White, MEd, BCBA, LBA,
CABAS Teacher 2**



Paula has been with Touchstone since the doors opened in 2014! She is the Houma Site based Clinical Supervisor. Along with being a licensed and Board Certified Behavior Analyst, she is also a Board Certified Educational Diagnostician and a Certified Special/Elementary Education Teacher.

She earned her Master's in Learning Disabilities in 1993 and spent many years teaching children with learning differences in the school setting. Her responsibilities also included training teachers in strategies to teach children with learning differences. Her interest and passion for ABA was sparked when she met Dr. Grant Gautreaux who provided consultation for children with learning challenges in her school system.

Witnessing the science of ABA solve educational challenges inspired Paula to become a BCBA. What she loves most about the field of ABA is watching children achieve, learn, and grow and sharing those successes with her children's parents.

When she isn't at the center, Paula spends her free time as a Youth Minister, helping teenagers become closer to Christ, or spending time outdoors, "preferably on a lake." Her favorite places to visit with her husband are Ruston and France – where each of her daughters are currently living.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY**

Keep up with Touchstone news and events here <https://touchstoneaba.com/news-blog/>

THIS MONTH'S FAMILY MEETINGS

Houma 6/19 Group Meeting at **8:45am**
Thibodaux 6/20 Group Meeting at **6:00pm**
Baton Rouge 6/27 Group Meeting at **1:00pm**
Hammond 6/20 Group Meeting at **5:30pm**
Hammond 6/21 **8:00-11:00 am Individual Meetings**
Lafayette 6/23/19 Group Meeting at **2:00pm**
New Orleans 6/27/19 Group Meeting at **2:30pm**

Group sessions are open to any Touchstone parent or other legal guardian. Other caregivers may attend *with* parents/guardians. Please refrain from bringing children to the group meetings. Individual sessions can be conducted at the centers, in the home, or in the community, and address your child's specific needs.

Join Us! If you are unable to attend the monthly meetings, please contact Angie Lanoux at: alanoux@tc-aba.com to set up individual meetings.

Summer Water Safety



Tragically, drowning is among the leading causes of death for persons with autism that wander (Nat'l. Autism Assoc.) Autism Speaks offers some suggestions for water safety: 1. Start early – it's never too early to start teaching your child about water safety; 2. Sign up for swim lessons –some YMCA's offer swim lessons for children with special needs (YMCA's in Houma, Baton Rouge and Alexandria are listed as providing lessons.) 3. Teach the dangers of water – being safe is more than just being able to swim, a child's attraction to water can lead kids into dangerous situations. 4. Take precautions to prevent wandering – install door alarms, make sure pools are inaccessible. 5. Spread the word – let neighbors know if your child wanders, alert first responders – Autism Speaks (<https://www.autismspeaks.org>) has sample forms you can use to alert others. When taking swim lessons, the National Autism Association suggests you **have your child fully dressed** for some of the lessons – a child that falls into a body of water will likely have clothes and shoes on – practicing swimming fully dressed can help teach a child to swim with the added weight.

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