

April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

For many organizations, providers, and parents, April has become the month to focus efforts on spreading autism awareness and acceptance. Touchstone ABA is sharing the following information to help parents and caregivers recognize possible early developmental signs that may indicate a need for further evaluation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified “red flags” or possible early indicators that a child may be demonstrating characteristics of ASD. *Some* of these are:

- Not pointing at objects to show interest (point at an airplane flying over) by 14 months
- Not playing “pretend” games (pretend to “feed” a doll) by 18 months
- Not responding to his/her name
- Avoiding eye contact and want to be alone
- Having trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Having delayed speech and language skills
- Repeating words or phrases over and over (echolalia)
- Giving unrelated answers to questions
- Getting upset by minor changes
- Having obsessive interests
- Flapping their hands, rocking their body, or spinning in circles
- Having unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look, or feel

The CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early” is a free resource to help families monitor [developmental milestones](#) and recognize signs of developmental concerns, including ASD. Children as young as six months old may have observable signs of ASD, though a diagnosis may not be given until around 18 months. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all 18-24-month-old children be screened for autism, but in reality the average age of an autism diagnosis is reportedly around four years of age. ***If you have concerns or a health care provider expresses concerns about your child’s development, don’t wait*** – seek out an expert in pediatric development or a professional experienced in diagnosing ASD. Some of the professionals that assess for and diagnose ASD include child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychologists, developmental pediatricians, and pediatric neurologists.

THIS MONTH’S FAMILY MEETINGS

Houma/Thibodaux 4/28 Group Meetings at 9:00am, 12:00pm, & 5:30pm

New Orleans Contact Angie to schedule 1:1 meetings

Baton Rouge School-aged clients 4/16 at 11-12:00

Baton Rouge Preschool clients- no group meeting this month

Hammond 4/19 Group Meeting at 10:00am

Lafayette 4/29 Group Meeting at 1:00pm

Group meetings this month are currently being held online. You will receive an email with a link to join the meetings. **Join Us! If you are unable to attend your monthly meetings, please contact Angie Lanoux at: alanoux@tc-aba.com to set up individual meetings**



April New Family Orientations

Please join us for **one** of the following orientation sessions:

Wednesday, April 14, 1-3pm

Saturday, April 24, 9-11am

Sunday, April 25, 1-3pm

Sunday, April 30, 9-11am

Please contact Angie Lanoux at alanoux@tc-aba.com or jhuber@tc-aba.com to register.

We’ll review Touchstone procedures, introduce ABA principles and procedures, and answer any questions you may have about your child’s services. Please call Janice Huber, Parent Educator at (337) 526-5231 with any questions. Sessions will be held online via ZOOM.

If you are unable to attend one of the sessions above, please contact Janice – we can schedule a session that works for you!