

Hello,  
September!



## Mandatory Kindergarten in Louisiana

Louisiana is one of only 13 states that now requires Kindergarten attendance. The law was signed by Governor Edwards in 2021 and went into effect for the 2022-2023 school year. If a child turns 5 by September 30, the child must be enrolled in kindergarten. There are several exemptions; children who are enrolled in a Pre-K program, are still 4 on the first day of school, or are enrolled with the state in a home study program.

For parents and guardians of children who turn 5 by September 30<sup>th</sup> **and** are receiving full-time ABA services, the state's requirement can be met by enrolling the child in a [home study program](#) with the Department of Education. There is an [online application](#) and an option to [mail in the application](#).

According to the state guidelines "Parents have complete control over selecting the curriculum to use to educate their child. Parents must use a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level. A parent or tutor may be permitted to provide the instruction; there are no teaching certification requirements."

Your child's ABA treatment plan can function as the child's curriculum. Your behavior analyst can assist you with providing supporting documentation for your application. Caregivers can email: [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) or call (877) 453-2721 for questions about the process or reach out to our Family Collaboration team below.

To read the law, click: [Act 386](#)

### Family Collaboration Support:

**Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA-** Paula White at [pgwhite@tc-aba.com](mailto:pgwhite@tc-aba.com)

**Baton Rouge/Lafayette/Hammond-** Mary Johnson at [mjohnson@tc-aba.com](mailto:mjohnson@tc-aba.com)

**Janice Huber** at [jhuber@tc-aba.com](mailto:jhuber@tc-aba.com)

**Carmen Broussard** at [cbroussard@tc-aba.com](mailto:cbroussard@tc-aba.com)

**Family Services Coordinator: Angie Lanoux** [alanoux@tc-aba.com](mailto:alanoux@tc-aba.com)

### THIS MONTH'S FAMILY MEETINGS

**Houma 9/20/23** Group Meeting 8:45am in person

**Thibodaux 9/19/23** Group Meeting 8:45 in person

**Thibodaux 9/21/23** Lafourche ARC at Thibodaux clinic for parents of 13-year-olds and older 8:45

**New Orleans 9/30/23** Group Meeting 10:30am in-person. 900 Camp St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, NO, LA 70130  
*Challenging Behaviors*

**Baton Rouge 9/26/23** Group Meeting at SLA 8:45 in person

**Lafayette 9/12/23** Group Meeting 1:00 in person

**Hammond 9/8/23** Group Meeting 8:30 in person

**Houma/Thib/NOLA/Lafayette** Online 9/21  
12:00noon

#### **Dr. Carmen Broussard Online Series for all families:**

9/7 9:00 *Eating Challenges*

9/14 12:00 *Increasing Play and Leisure Skills*

**Dr. Broussard's sessions are held online via TEAMS, contact Angie at [alanoux@tc-aba.com](mailto:alanoux@tc-aba.com) to register**

Group sessions are open to any Touchstone parent or other legal guardian. Other caregivers may attend **with** parents/guardians. 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](mailto:alanoux@tc-aba.com) to set up individual meetings.**

