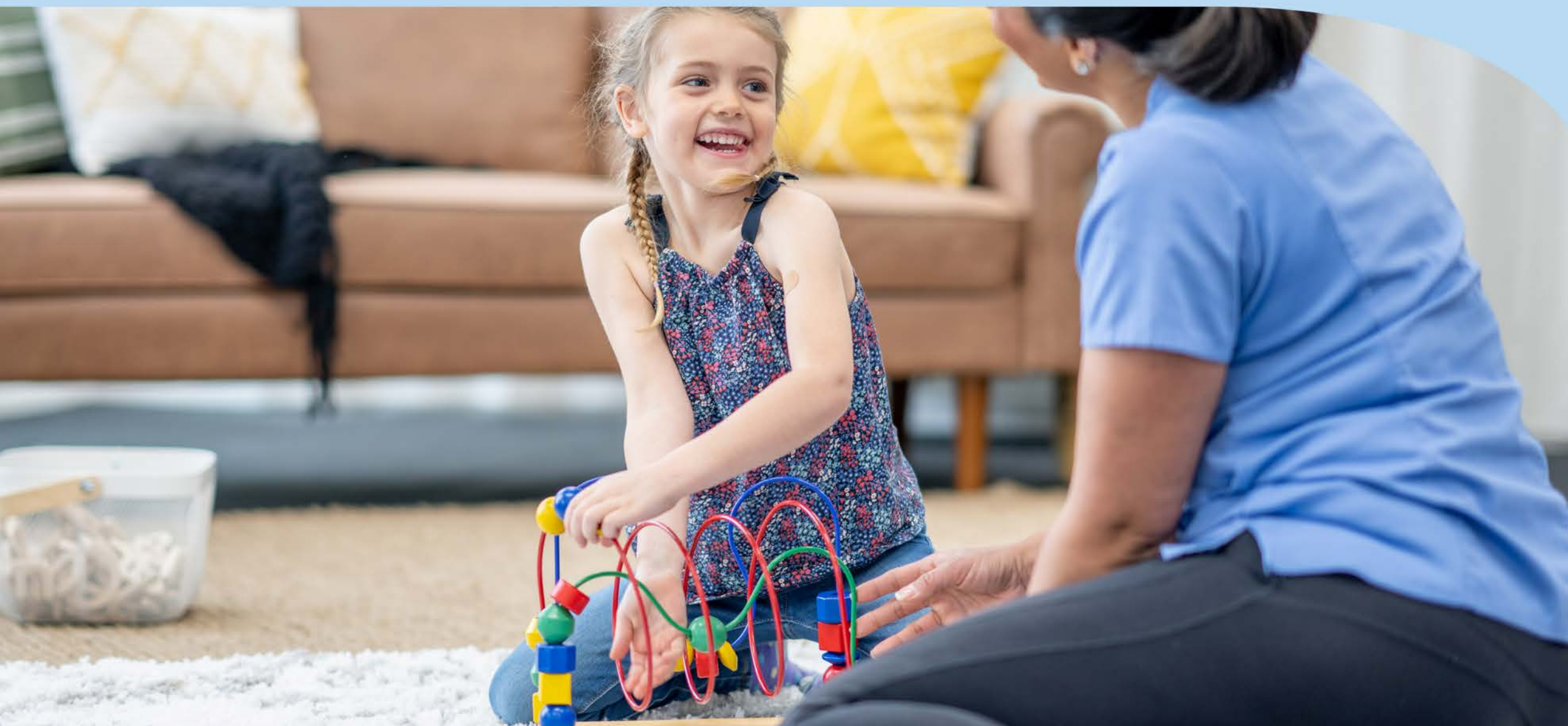


Systems of Care Meeting

Children Making Strides - Premier Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy in MA

February 7th, 2024



Chaim Fiskus
Executive Director

Kori Lundstedt, M.Ed, BCBA, LABA
Director of Outreach/Clinical Supervisor





About the speakers

Chaim Fiskus
Executive Director

Kori Lundstedt
Director of Outreach and
Clinical Supervisor



Who are we?

Established in 1999, Children Making Strides has served Southeastern Massachusetts for over 20 years. Founded by a mother of a young boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as ABA services were scarce during that time.

Our commitment to providing exceptional services is continually driven by personal experience and drive to help others.



*Founder Patricia Antonellis and her son, Connor
featured in the Boston Globe in 2017*



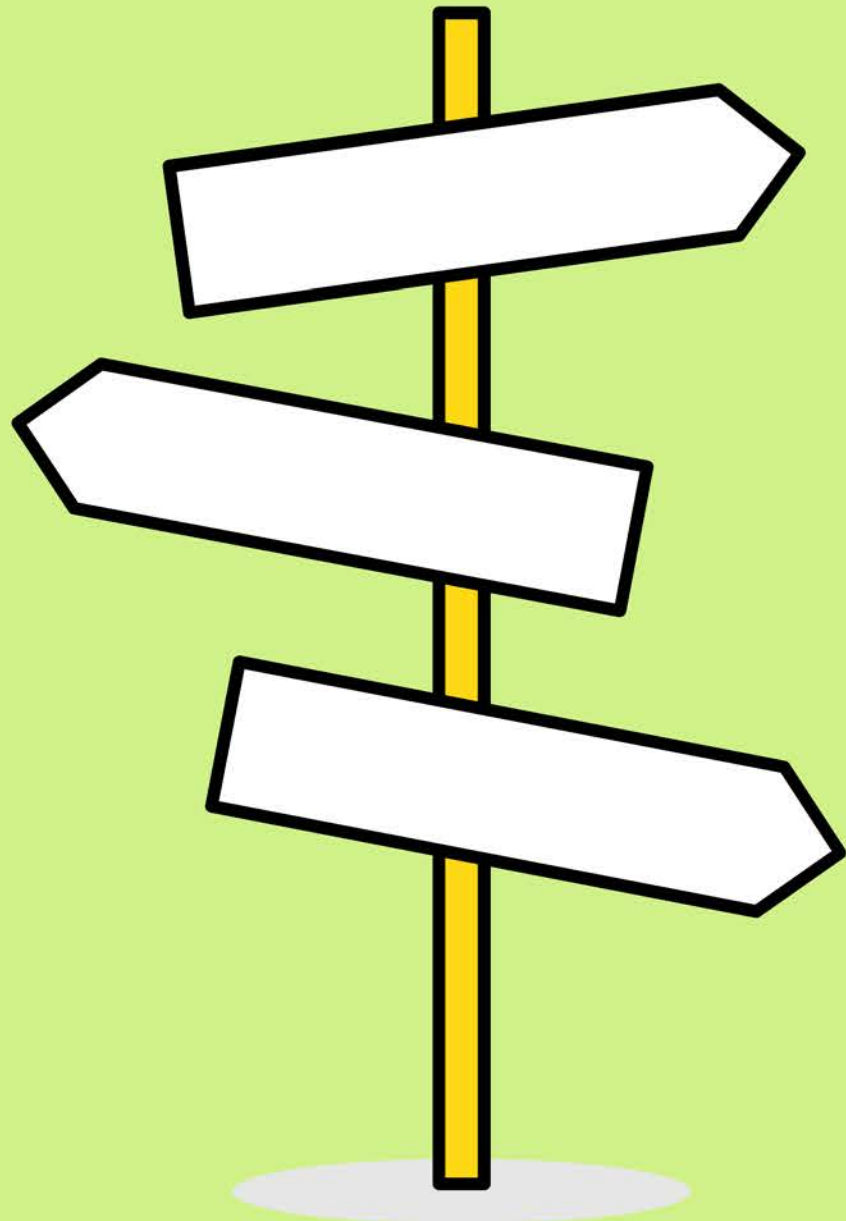
Positive Changes

Patricia retired in 2022, creating new opportunity for Children Making Strides.

Most notably,

- We've put a strong emphasis on improving the **clinical quality** of our program to ensure the most individualized care and best outcomes for the children we service.
- We've invested significant time and resources into the **staff training and professional development** to ensure staff are well-prepared and equipped to deliver on par with our company's high standards for quality of care and compassion.
- We've furthermore put a huge focus on HR, **recruitment and overall company culture** to ensure we bring in, and retain, the best quality staff.

Where are we?



South Coast, South Shore,
Mid-Upper Cape, and more

Learning Centers:

- Plymouth, MA
- Fall River, MA
- **Coming Soon:** New Bedford, MA

In-Home Services, including but not limited to:

- Cape Cod: Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth, Wareham.
- Plymouth Region: Plymouth, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke, Hanover
- Fall River Region: Fall River, Taunton, Swansea, Somerset
- New Bedford Region: New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Dartmouth

What is ABA Therapy?



ABA Therapy

*If a flower doesn't bloom,
You fix the environment in which it grows,
Not the flower.*



What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior.

Behavior analysis helps us to understand:

- How behavior works
- How behavior is affected by the environment
- How learning takes place

ABA therapy applies our understanding of how behavior works to real situations. The goal is to increase behaviors that are helpful and decrease behaviors that are harmful or interfere with learning.

ABA therapy can help:

- Increase language and communication skills
- Improve attention, focus, social skills, memory, and academics
- Decrease interfering behaviors



Source: autismspeaks.com

Scientifically Proven

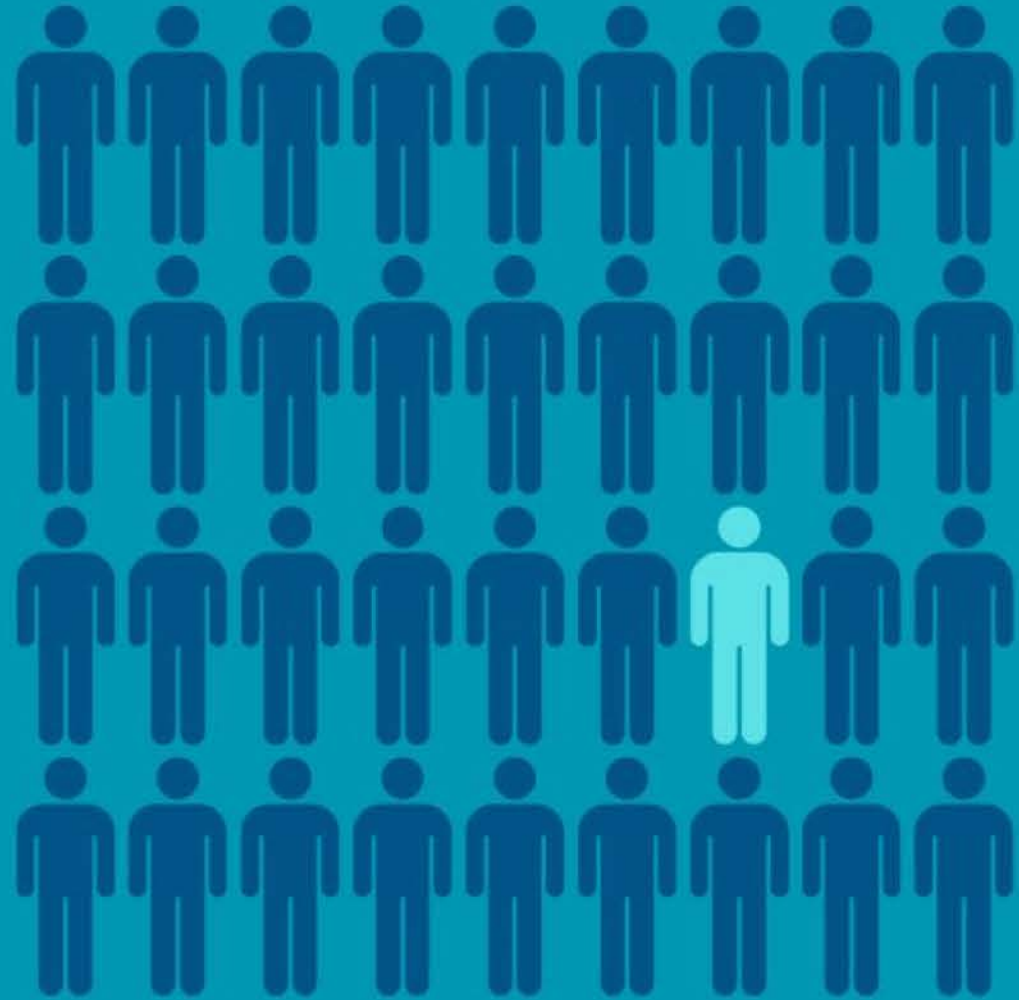
ABA focuses on understanding and improving behavior. It is the most scientifically-validated and research-driven intervention for those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Individualized Therapy

Our ABA therapy is individualized and tailored to each child's unique needs. The therapy involves positive reinforcement, structured learning environments, and data-driven decision-making to foster positive changes.



**AUTISM NOW AFFECTS 1 IN 36
CHILDREN IN THE U.S.**



MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

Prevalence

- About 1 in 36 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.
- ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.
- ASD is nearly 4 times more common among boys than among girls.

source: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)



The number of autism diagnoses has increased by over 300% since 2000.

As a result, there is a rising demand for well-trained professionals.

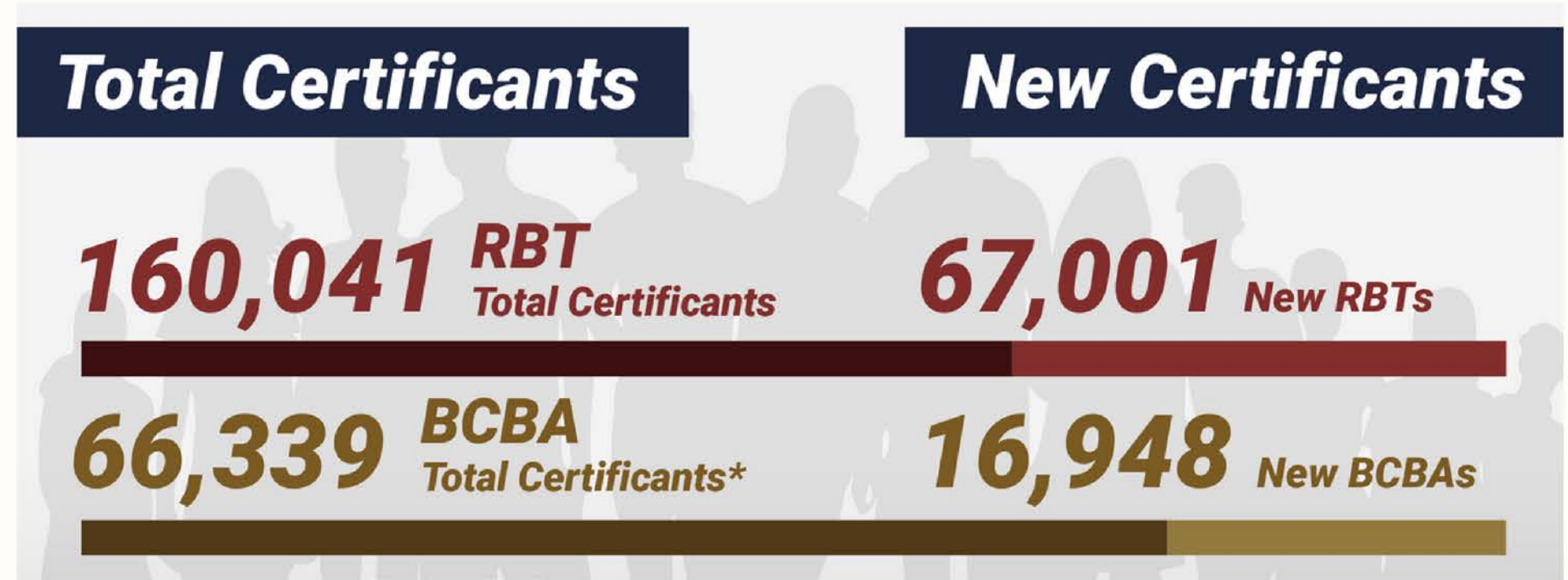
Across the nation, dedicated professionals are stepping up to meet this growing need!



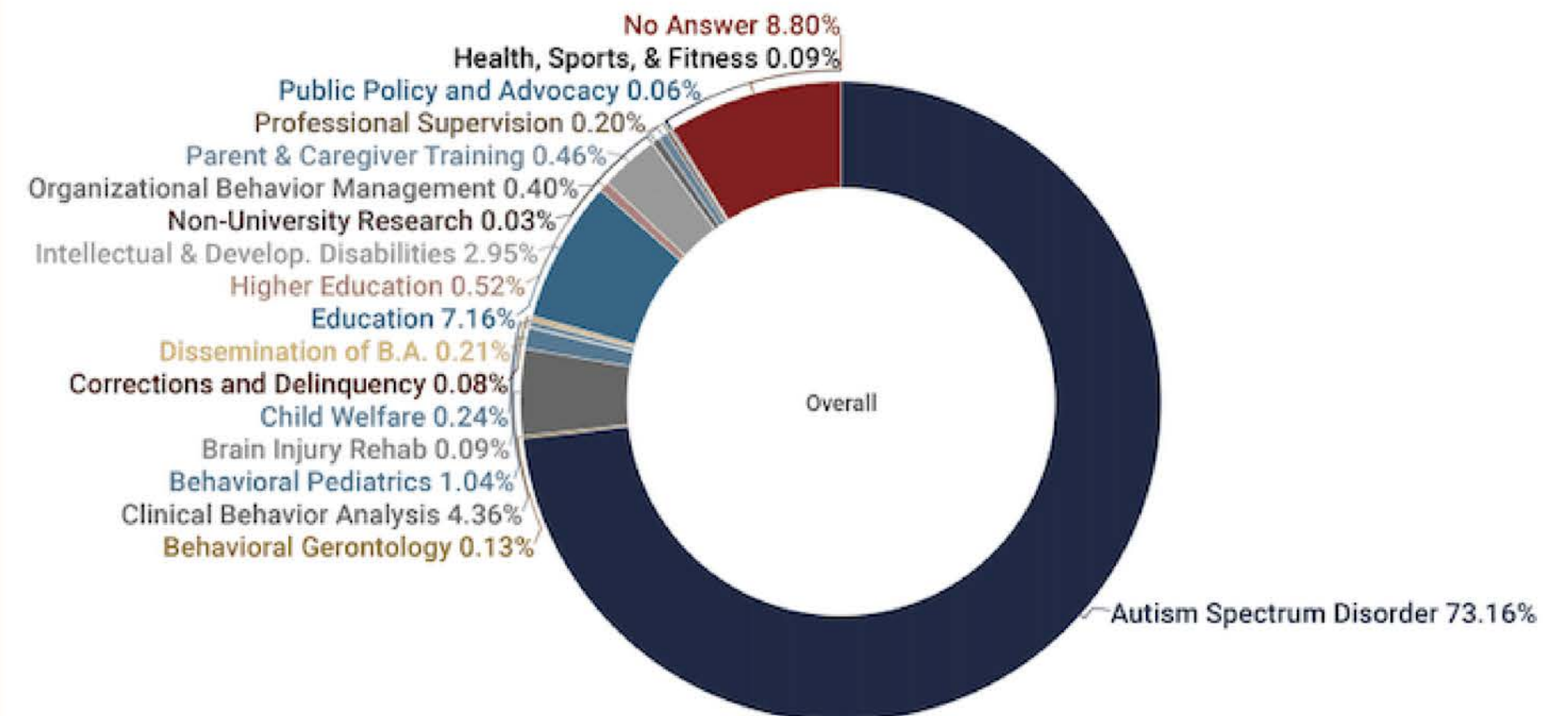
Reported by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board in 2023,



A vast increase in behavior professionals over the last year, and 73% of them work with the autism population.



Primary Areas of Professional Emphasis:



At CMS,

Our specialists range from Entry-Level BTs to Career BCBAs

All of our employees share important roles - teacher and learner.



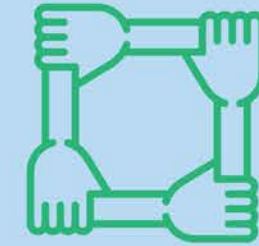
Two-Week Competency-Based Training

Led by a team of BCBAs, our training is thorough, hands-on, and competency-based, welcoming those new or experienced in the field.



Professional Development

We welcome life-long learners. We support growth of each employee by providing professional development opportunities each year.



Ongoing Clinical Support

Led by our Clinical Director, Kristen Bettencourt, our clinical support system is unmatched. We provide proactive 1:1 support across all employees.



Our Mission



to teach with joy, and see our children grow happy, relaxed, and engaged in our therapeutic adventure.

Holistic Development

Considers social, communication, cultural AND emotional aspects of the child and their family.

Child-Centered Goals

Targets meaningful skills for the child's daily life.

Flexibility in Techniques

Adapts methods based on preferences and needs.

Promotion of Intrinsic Motivation

Cultivates internal motivation for participation -when the child is having fun, they're excited to learn!

Long-Term Success

Sets the foundation for lifelong learning and improvement.

Sharing Stories

Success is a unique journey for each child,
we celebrate every stride alongside them!

Take Sally*, for instance. We began working with her at the age of 2 when she presented as non-verbal, expressing herself through challenging behaviors.

Through her own dedicated efforts, ABA support, speech therapy, and collaboration across all providers, Sally spoke her first functional words at the age of 6. And there was no stopping her from there.

Now, as a big sister and role model to her two younger brothers, Sally exemplifies the transformative power of hard work and support!



Her journey, among many, many others, is a testament to the incredible strides children can make when provided with the right resources and encouragement.



Family Resources

Our commitment extends beyond direct therapy.



Jo-Ann Branzetti

Family Services Coordinator
Children Making Strides



Recognizing both the triumphs and the challenges parents face in raising children with autism, we offer comprehensive family resources.

These resources aim to provide support and awareness about various benefits available to parents, and more individualized supports as well.

Our commitment extends beyond therapy sessions to empower families with the knowledge and assistance they may need.

Jo-Ann, pictured to the left, has been with the company for almost 20 years, and has 30 years of her own autism experience with her son, Matthew. She has been fully devoted to this area of expertise and takes great pride in helping our families.

Intake Process

Our streamlined intake process ensures a smooth journey for both parents and children



Our Intake Process

Intake Coordinator

A dedicated intake coordinator manages initial inquiries, providing essential information and answering questions.

BCBA Involvement

Once the initial intake is completed, our Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) takes over. They conduct an in-depth assessment to understand the child's unique strengths and challenges.

Insurance or EI Authorization

We facilitate the process of obtaining insurance or Early Intervention (EI) authorization, ensuring financial support for the child's therapy.

Individualized Services

Based on the principles of ABA, we design individualized therapy plans that cater to the specific needs of each child. These plans evolve as the child progresses, ensuring continuous improvement.



CMS, Bringing New ABA to Southeastern MA

Our commitment to excellence, combined with a compassionate approach, sets us apart in providing quality ABA therapy services to children with ASD and support for their families throughout their journey.



Thank you!



**Bay State
Community
Services**

Helping Families. Saving Lives.
Empowering Communities.



www.cmsaba.com