

Monday, June 29, 2015

Oakland University's Center for Autism opens new Applied Behavior Analysis clinic

A three-tiered resource through the Oakland University Center for Autism opened its doors on Monday, July 6, to both the on- and off-campus communities.

The Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Autism Clinic is a nonprofit, center-based clinic on Oakland's campus that will be dedicated to treatment and research related to autism spectrum disorders (ASD), but will also benefit the greater community and those studying ASD.

The clinic, which is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health (MDCMH), will improve the quality of life for local children with autism and their families, says Jessica Korneder, Ph.D., assistant professor of human development and child studies for the School of Education and Human Services. It will also provide valuable training to OU students seeking careers in autism research.



Kelsey Ruffin (standing), and Darra Zienert (sitting) are Behavior Technicians and graduate students who work with patients like Chase in the Oakland University Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Autism Clinic.

"This resource can be for families, but also for those wanting to get involved," says Dr. Korneder. "There is a growing collaboration throughout the university on ways to support children and adults with autism."

School of Education Interim Dean C. Robert Maxfield agrees. "The launch of the ABA clinic is a tribute to the combined power of the faculty in our Center for Autism and the strong support for autism programs provided by the State of Michigan," he says.

The clinic will accept students on scholarship for families working out insurance challenges, as well as insurance reimbursement. Through partnerships, the clinic will provide early intervention behavior analysis services to children ages 2-6 diagnosed with ASD or at risk for an autism diagnosis.

Treatment services will focus on communication, play, social and speech skills in one-on-one and small group instruction, and will focus on each child's individual objectives. It will also offer training for students seeking certification as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT), and provide research opportunities into the most effective treatments of ASD.

"Undergraduate students are developing technical, clinical and professional skills for graduate work or entry level positions in the field of autism," explains Dr. Korneder. "For graduate students, they are acquiring clinical and professional skills for their career and will help change the lives of children and families affected by autism."



Jessica Korneder, Ph.D.

Dr. Korneder says the clinic will conduct research on best-practice training methods for behavior technicians, evaluate parent training methods, look at ways to reduce repetitive challenging behaviors and

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increase play skills in students diagnosed with autism or those at risk.

For more information about the Oakland University Center for Autism and the new ABA clinic, visit the [website](#) or contact Jessica Korneder at (248) 370-3080 or korneder@oakland.edu.