

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3 • MAR 2024

MOSAIC MINDS

Official Newsletter of Midwest Autism & Therapy Centers



INTRODUCING

FAMILY APPRECIATION MORNINGS!

Starting on **March 12th**, and recurring on the second Tuesday of every month, Midwest Autism & Therapy Centers will offer coffee and donuts during morning drop off for our families to enjoy. This is just one small way we wish to say **"Thank you!"** for the trust you place in our teams!

A graphic for a Family Appreciation Event. It features a white wooden background with several coffee mugs and donuts. The text "Family Appreciation Event" is written in a black cursive font. Below it, the date and time "Tuesday, March 12th 8:30-9:30 a.m." are written in a bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom, a paragraph states: "Coffee & Donuts will be provided in the lobby for our clients and their families to enjoy while visiting with our team members!". In the bottom right corner, there is a small yellow circle with the Midwest Autism & Therapy Center logo.

*Family
Appreciation Event*

**Tuesday, March 12th
8:30-9:30 a.m.**

Coffee & Donuts will be provided
in the lobby for our clients and
their families to enjoy while
visiting with our team members!

This Issue:

FAMILY APPRECIATION
PAGE 01

CAREERS IN ABA:
REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES
WORKING WITH CHILDREN
PAGE 02

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS
PAGES 03 - 04

CENTER HIGHLIGHTS
PAGE 05

UPCOMING EVENTS
PAGE 06

GET CONNECTED
PAGE 07



Read this issue and more online!



CAREERS IN ABA: REWARDING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT MIDWEST!

We recently had the privilege of attending the **Iowa State University People to People Career Fair**, where we met some inspiring young people exploring career opportunities in the behavioral health field. Let's review some of the most common questions we received, explore the field of ABA, and dive into some career opportunities available in the Autism services industry!

The Field of ABA

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is considered the "gold standard" of Autism therapy. ABA uses positive reinforcement to help increase behaviors like safe play and communication while decreasing challenging or unsafe behaviors like self-harm and elopement. Most, modern ABA centers around neuropositivity to help raise awareness and destigmatize neurodivergence. Most often, ABA is recommended for children on the Autism Spectrum, but it can be used as a tool for a variety of developmental disabilities.

What Kind of Clinicians Provide ABA Therapy?

It's no secret that clinicians studying Applied Behavior Analysis play a critical role in promoting evidence-based therapy practices by obtaining a solid foundation in ABA principles and techniques. There are two primary types of clinicians qualified to offer ABA therapy for ASD, these are BCBA's and RBTs. Each role is governed by care standards and ethics codes developed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

The Registered Behavior Technician® (RBT) certification is a paraprofessional certification in behavior analysis. RBTs assist in delivering behavior-analytic services and practice under the direction and close supervision of an RBT Supervisor, BCBA, and/or RBT Requirements Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring the quality of their care.

Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA) are graduate-level clinicians certified in Behavior Analysis and are licensed to provide ABA therapy within the state in which they reside. Professionals certified at the BCBA level are independent practitioners who develop treatment plans, provide behavioral assessments and oversee 1:1 care provided by RBTs.

What Makes ABA Special?

Our providers note the sense of pride they feel when their clients form a new word for the first time, when client siblings learn sign language to communicate, or when they see the joy on a parent's face after their child reaches a new milestone. Working directly with children in the field of ABA allows team members to equip clients with the skills needed to capitalize on their unique strengths, and to witness their growth firsthand!



INTERESTED IN BUILDING A REWARDING CAREER IN ABA WITH MIDWEST?

APPLY TODAY!



TEAM SPOTLIGHT



COURTNEY GROOM - ALTOONA CAMPUS REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Courtney enjoys building rapport with her clients and their families. She takes pride in learning and remembering what her clients' preferred items and activities are. She gets just as excited as the clients when new skills and cool things take place!

MACKENZIE HANSEN - ANKENY CAMPUS SENIOR REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Mackenzie received a Bachelor's of Music in Music Therapy from the University of Iowa, and worked as a music therapist for two years before making the switch into the ABA world following her love for the Autism community. She is now in the grad program to become a BCBA! Mackenzie loves making a strong connection with the kiddos, seeing them want to run across the room for a hug.

Mackenzie enjoys reading, the color sky blue, chocolate candies, and the Easter holiday. She is married and has guinea pigs and two cats.



ROSE LUDESCHER - EDINA CAMPUS SENIOR REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Rose is working towards her Master's Degree in Behavioral Analysis Practice from Florida Institute of Technology. She has a passion for talking about ABA loves learning new things. Rose is motivated by knowing she is helping children grow and seeing the progress that the kiddos are making.

She has loved watching the Edina clinic grow from one client, to seven, and beyond!

Some of Rose's favorites include the color blue, hiking, and macaroni & cheese.



INGA PETERSON - WAUKEE CAMPUS REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Inga has a Bachelor's in Marketing from Iowa State University, and loves building connections with her clients and other RBT's.

She enjoys working with kids and having worked with them since high school. She loves the idea of providing one on one therapy to clients and making a difference in their development.

Some of Inga's favorites include Reese's, Halloween, the colors black & baby pink, and visiting Florida. She enjoys traveling, working out, and spending time with friends.



DENNISA CATIC - WEST DES MOINES CAMPUS REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Dennisa has a Bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and an Associate's degree from DMACC.

She got into the field of ABA because she is passionate about seeing kiddos learn and grow! She loves being able to help them in that process.

She enjoys watching documentaries, shopping, and relaxing at home.

Welcome Dennisa!



KATE CINA - WOODBURY CAMPUS BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN

Kate thrives collaborative environments and working with a team. She enjoys using her creativity and understanding of verbal/nonverbal cues to find ways for children to engage in their work in fun ways.





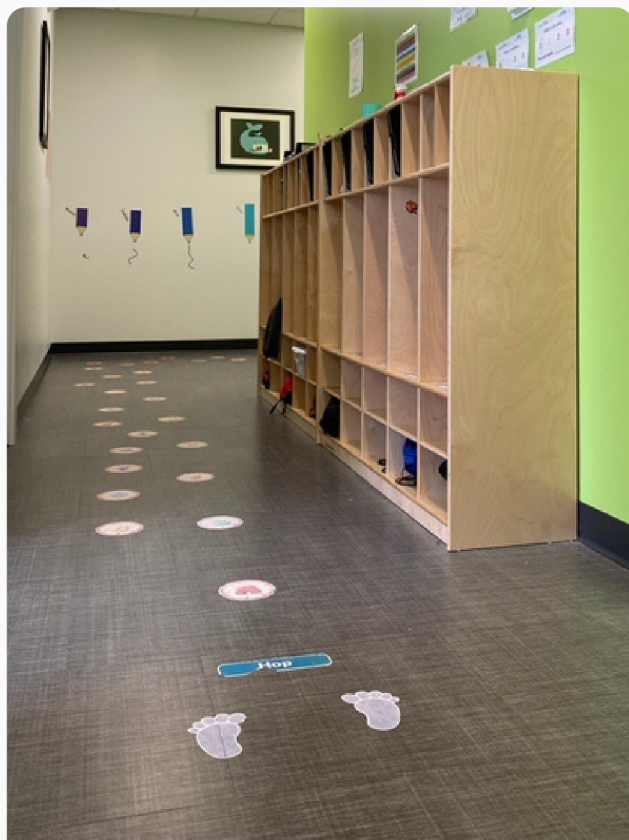
PEEK INSIDE OUR CENTERS



Toys, fidgets, books, and more fill our toy rooms with fun options for kiddos!



Treatment rooms are vibrant places for learning and fun in our centers!



Cubbies for our clients' belongings and fun trails in the hallways!



The newest addition to our centers- rock climbing walls in the gym!



FIND MIDWEST AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Fi & Friends

Autism Resource Fair

Saturday, April 13th, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A safe and inclusive space for all abilities to gain support and community resources.

*Horizon Events Center
2100 NW 100th St Clive, IA 50325*

MN Autism Conference

April 17th-19th, 2024

This three-day conference will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and a resource fair with in-person sponsors.

*Doubletree by Hilton Minneapolis Airport
2020 American Blvd. E. Bloomington, MN
55425*

Striding 4 Awareness

Saturday, April 20th, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Resource Fair 10:00-11:00 a.m.
4th Annual Walk to Include 10:30 a.m.
Lunch and Silent Auction 11:00-2:00 p.m.

*Resource Fair & Walk @ Carlisle HS Track
Lunch & Silent Auction @ Carlisle Elementary
Multi-Purpose Room (430 School St Carlisle)*

Steps for Autism in MN

Sunday, May 19th, 2024

An inclusive event for all abilities with a resource fair featuring in-person sponsors and activities. The walk will be at the pace and distance choice of each participant.

ROC at the St. Louis Park Rec Center

Upcoming Zoom Lunch & Learn Series with the Autism Society of Iowa

April 3rd, 12:00-1:00 p.m. - IA Vocational Rehabilitation Services

April 10th, 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Internet Safety and Awareness on the Spectrum

April 17th, 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Common Interventions for ASD

April 24th, 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Supporting Siblings

These sessions are held via Zoom by the Autism Society of Iowa, and are **free** to register for, simply provide your contact information for the link!

Visit autismia.com/events for more information.



Sign up to receive email updates from Midwest Autism & Therapy Centers!
Email updates include monthly newsletters, new blog posts, center updates, announcements and more.



Get Connected

ALTOONA CAMPUS:

950 28TH AVE SW, STE 2 ALTOONA, IA 50009 | 515-446-2075

ANKENY CAMPUS:

2405 N ANKENY RD ANKENY, IA 50023 | 515-446-2080

EDINA CAMPUS:

7550 FRANCE AVE S, STE 200 EDINA, MN 55435 | 952-955-4057

WAUKEE CAMPUS:

287 SE WESTOWN PKWY WAUKEE, IA 50263 | 515-446-3420

WEST DES MOINES CAMPUS:

1280 OFFICE PLAZA DR WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | 515-446-3420

WOODBURY CAMPUS:

748 BIELENBERG DR WOODBURY, MN 55125 | 651-796-2306



INFO@MIDWESTAUTISMSERVICES.COM

MIDWESTAUTISMSERVICES.COM

