

# Lakeview Center



BAPTIST HEALTH CARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## April is Autism Awareness Month 2021

**Pensacola, Fla. (March 29), 2021** – During Autism Awareness Month 2020 Lakeview Center wants to help educate the community on the disorder to help improve lives. Here are a few facts:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnostic rates are 1 in 59 children according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Establishing a communication system for the family is a great first step. Visual supports such as daily schedules or token boards are often helpful.
- Community supports such as Autism Pensacola, Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), applied behavior analysis (ABA), speech and language, and physical/occupational therapies are helpful.
- Four behaviors that parents can model to help their children accept and make friends with peers on the Autism Spectrum include:
  1. Be patient. Pause. Allow your child time to process things and respond.
  2. Be flexible. Not all children will respond to social interaction the same way. Just because a response doesn't meet your expectation doesn't mean it's wrong. Play along and have fun.
  3. Use gestures to support your words.
  4. Be kind—always.

Call Jessi Truett, ABA program director, at 850. 469.3726 to learn more about Autism treatment and support.



### CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Tish Pennewill at 850.469.3621 or [Tish.Pennewill@bhcpns.org](mailto:Tish.Pennewill@bhcpns.org) or Lori Zavada at 850.469.3508 or [Lori.Zavada@bhcpns.org](mailto:Lori.Zavada@bhcpns.org).

#### *About Lakeview Center, Inc. Behavioral Health*

*The Mission of Lakeview Behavioral Health is to help people throughout life's journey. We specialize in providing effective, research-based services for children and adults with mental illnesses, drug and alcohol dependencies, and intellectual disabilities. Our services range from inpatient and residential treatment to outpatient counseling, psychiatry, case management, day treatment, and round-the-clock support for those with serious mental illnesses. Additionally, Lakeview Behavioral Health provides specialized trauma services, medication-assisted treatment for opiate dependency, and medically supervised drug and alcohol detoxification. In all, Lakeview Behavioral Health offers more than 60 programs and services for people in the northwest Florida area. To learn more, go online to [eLakeviewCenter.org](http://eLakeviewCenter.org).*

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