

# Lakeview Center

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH • FAMILIESFIRST NETWORK • GLOBAL CONNECTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## April is Autism Awareness Month

**Pensacola, Fla. (April 1, 2022)** – Individuals on the Autism Spectrum have amazing qualities. Children who receive individualized services, based on their goals and unique learning styles, can connect well with others.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a great example of such a service. ABA is a research-based, scientific method that measures observable behavior. It looks at what occurs before and after a behavior. In serving people with an autism diagnosis, our team applies ABA by breaking down skills into simple steps to assist learning. A correct response is followed by positive reinforcement, which increases the likelihood that a behavior or response will be repeated. The science helps therapists develop effective treatment plans for children with developmental disabilities.

Tips for parents to help their children accept and make friends with peers on the autism spectrum include:

- 1) Be patient. Pause and allow your child time to process things and respond.
- 2) Be flexible. Children will respond to social interactions in the same ways. Just because a response doesn't meet our expectation, doesn't mean it's wrong. Play along, and have fun.
- 3) Use gestures to support your words.
- 4) Always be kind. Kindness is contagious, so spread the kindness!

To learn more about the science behind ABA or for more guidance on parenting a child on the autism spectrum, call Dana Wilmot, M.Ed., BCBA, Lakeview Director of Child and Adolescence Autism Services, at 850.469.3726.

### CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Kelsi Gulig at 850.503.8164 or [Kelsi.Gulig@bhcpns.org](mailto:Kelsi.Gulig@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).*

*Lakeview Center Inc. • Behavioral Health • Vocational Services • Child Protective Services*

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